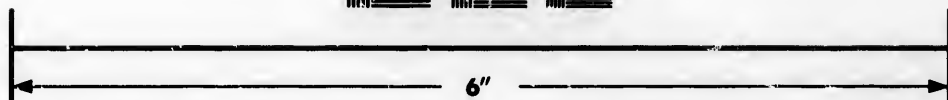
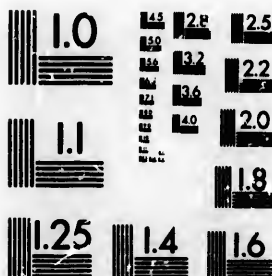


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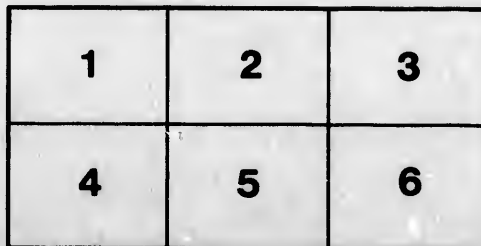
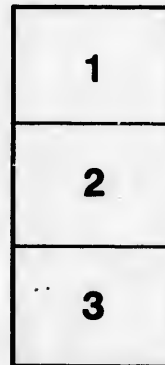
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PIONEERS
OF THE
EASTERN TOWNSHIPS:
A WORK
CONTAINING OFFICIAL AND RELIABLE INFORMATION
RESPECTING THE
FORMATION OF SETTLEMENTS;

WITH
INCIDENTS IN THEIR EARLY HISTORY;

AND
Details of Adventures, Perils and Deliverances.

BY MRS. C. M. DAY.

Montreal:
PRINTED BY JOHN LOVELL, ST. NICHOLAS STREET
1863.

Entered, according to the Act of the Provincial Parliament, in
the year one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, by
Mrs. C. M. DAY, in the Office of the Registrar of the Pro-
vince of Canada.

P R E F A C E .

For the information of many who may read these pages, and especially for a better understanding of the subject to which the book relates, by those whose knowledge is limited in regard to this matter,—as very many are but partially acquainted with the course necessary to be pursued in the days of our forefathers, in “taking up land” as it was termed,—the writer has devoted an introductory chapter to copies of original manuscripts relating to this, which documents (or copies of which) have fallen in her way. Such parts are given as it was thought would be of general or special interest, those paragraphs which contain merely formal repetitions having been invariably omitted.

The first given of the documents referred to, is the “Warrant of Survey for the township of Stukely,” then the Return to that Warrant by the Surveyor-General, to which is added the “Certificate of the Surveyor-General of Woods.” Then follows a copy of the “Charter of the township of Shefford,” and finally a document in reference to the arrangement between Agent and Associate, which will fully explain itself.

It has been made an object to lay before the reader only such information as is reliable, it having been drawn from Official sources, or received from parties fully competent to give it; themselves having, in most cases, been active co-operators in promoting the settlement of those parts of our Country, to which this work more particularly relates. It may be proper to say that the papers relative to the two Townships of Shefford and Stukely, have been taken in preference to those concerning other parts, merely because the writer had more ready access to them; and, farther, that though the course herein described may have had exceptions, it was generally nearly uniform throughout that section of Canada known as the "Eastern Townships."

We now proceed to notice the preliminary steps to be taken in order to obtain the desired Grant.

First. It was necessary for the individual, who was to act as Agent for the Associates, to obtain a recommend as to his being a responsible person, when a petition was to be prepared in which the various, peculiar and urgent claims of the petitioner were brought forward, which reasons almost invariably related to grievances, embarrassments and losses suffered in consequence of the then late American rebellion; and redress was asked in the manner set forth in the petition. Then follows a description of the size and location of the Tract asked for by the petitioner and his Associates; all ending in the usual form: "Which petition was

referred by His Excellency to the Land Committee for consideration."

The number of Associates required for a township ten miles square, was forty, all of whom, with the Agent, were to take the oath of allegiance before they were accepted, and their names entered in the Letters Patent; each Associate being obliged to make "actual settlement."

The Agent was to bear all the expenses incurred in the survey of the township; to open a road through, and erect, or cause to be erected, mills within the township; which conditions were to be fulfilled within a given term of time before the granting of the Letters Patent.

Five-sevenths of the township were to be given to the Agent and Associates; of the other two-sevenths, one half was for the disposition of the Crown, the other half for Protestant Clergy; which lands were known as Crown and Clergy reserves.

The power to grant Warrants of Survey and make conditions, rested with the Governor and Council, who, for the convenience of parties interested, appointed a board of Commissioners who were located at Missisquoi Bay, whose duty it was to administer the oath of allegiance to Agent and Associate, as well as to attend to the various details of the business that came within the defined limits of their deputed authority.

The arrangements between Agent and Associate, which in some cases have been prolific of contention

and litigation, were personal and private agreements ; the course usually pursued being to secure by previous contract, that of the land thus drawn by the Associate, he should deed back to the Agent all received over and above the number of acres stipulated for. Two hundred was the usual number fixed upon, and in these cases the Associate had the privilege of choice from among the lots originally falling to him, on which to make "actual settlement;" yet exceptions to this practice were frequent, especially if the Associate had sons who were considered desirable acquisitions to the community forming, and extra inducements were thought necessary, when a larger proportion was offered. This matter admitted of great latitude.

At the expiration of the term of time, the parties went again before the board of commissioners to represent how matters stood in relation to the fulfilment of the conditions stipulated, and get a statement from that body to send the "Governor and Council in Parliament assembled."

In few if any instances were the conditions fulfilled to the letter ; but in cases of partial failure, compromises were effected owing to the extreme leniency of the Government, and as the contracts were in part fulfilled they were considered good thus far, and a proportional part of the land granted them, the remainder still remaining the property of Government.

The prosecution of this business was attended with serious delays and great expense, as intricate and

vexatious questions were often raised to the no small annoyance of parties interested. The various items of expense involved in opening channels of communication with the cities, and the necessary surveyings, explorings, making roads, bridges, &c., were almost constant calls upon the time and means of the Agent; for which he was not too well repaid by the land which reverted to him, considering that it was in many cases far from being available for sale or cultivation. In this way fortunes were laid out without prospect of immediate, if of final, returns. A statement, with which the writer has met, giving these items of expense in the case of a single township, is a curiosity of itself, and effectually did away with any impression that these arrangements might have been a source of extensive profit to the Agent; the direct reverse being known and acknowledged to have been the case.

Whether this was the wisest method that could have been devised of apportioning land and effecting the settlement of the country, may well admit of serious doubt; the arrangements that were often entered into between agents and associates respecting the transfer of lands, admitting of so many and great abuses as seemed to open widely a door for the entrance of intrigue and corruption.

That something was lacking in the system we must believe; proof abundant being at hand even in our day, in the numerous cases of litigation which threaten serious losses to individuals. We hear of such that

have been referred to Government for decision, where it is to be hoped they will find a satisfactory settlement.

Probably these abuses of the system then in use, were a prominent cause of the serious disagreements that occurred between His Excellency Governor Prescott and the Council; differences that ultimately led to his return to England, accompanied by his secretary, Samuel Gale, Esq.

One principal object of the book, however, is to bring to a more lively remembrance the hardships and privations suffered by the early settlers of these townships. It is but a tribute of justice, we, their descendants, who have as it were entered into their labors and are enjoying its fruits, owe to those who bore "the burden and heat of the day," in pioneering the way to our comfort and respectability. We cannot feel too grateful for the self-sacrificing efforts they made for their children, or too much admire the strength of character necessary to carry such a work to a successful completion: yet we do not—we never can know all of the labor and self-denial necessary to be done and borne in the formation of a home in the wilderness. Of the different motives that may have influenced our forefathers in this work, and induced them to forego the comforts of home in a community of friends, to enter on the arduous labors and perilous adventures incident to the settlement of a country like this; whether they were prompted by a spirit of restless

enterprise, ambition or hope of gain, it is not our business to judge. We know that they did seek their habitations here; that in many instances tenderly reared and delicate women, with young and rising families of children, accompanied their husbands, fathers, and brothers, to these wild homes; that if not taking active part in the exciting perils and adventures of their dear ones, their sympathies and anxieties were not only taxed to the utmost, but the work of their hands in those departments of domestic industry in which their services could be made available, was brought into constant requisition; all home privations were equally and cheerfully borne by them as they were alike active helpers or passive sufferers.

We, their children and grand-children, living in the daily enjoyment of what, though seemingly necessary to us, were luxuries to them, are quite too ready to forget the price at which our comforts were bought.

South Stukely, C. E., July 2, 1862.

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER.

“Warrant and Return of Survey for the Township of Stukely.”

Referred to a committee of the whole Council, by order of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor,—May 20th, 1800.

(Signed,)

H. W. RYLAND.

His Excellency Robert Shore Milnes, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Lower Canada, &c., &c.

To the Surveyor-General of the Province of Lower Canada, GREETING:

WHEREAS, Samuel Willard, of the county of Bedford, in the Province of Lower Canada, gentleman, in behalf of himself and associates, by his petition, bearing date the 29th day of June, in the year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven, to His Excellency Robert Prescott, Esquire, Governor of the said Province, hath humbly requested that a certain tract or portion of the waste lands of the Crown, in the said petition described as follows, that is to say: A Township of ten miles square, bounded on the east by the township of Orford, on the west by the township of Shefford, on the north by the township of Ely, and on the south by the township of Bolton, may be

granted to him and his associates forever in free and common soccage.*

And whereas, the Executive Council of the said Province, having duly and maturely considered the said petition, have thereof in part approved, and have adjudged to be reasonable and advisable that one moiety of the said tract or portion of land so situated, as aforesaid, should be granted unto the said Samuel Willard and his associates, and his, and their heirs and assigns forever, upon the terms and conditions prescribed by His Majesty's Royal instructions in this behalf.

Now, therefore, having taken the premises into consideration, by this Warrant of Survey I do empower and require you, at the proper costs and charges of the said Samuel Willard and his associates, to make a faithful and exact survey of the said tract or parcel of land, described as above set forth in the petition of the said Samuel Willard, to be hereafter known and distinguished by the name of the township of Stukely, and to subdivide the said township into lots of two hundred acres each.

* Soccage, in English law, a tenure of lands and tenements by a certain or determinate service; a tenure distinct from chivalry or knight's service, in which the render was uncertain. The service must be certain in order to be denominated *soccage*; as to hold by fealty and twenty shillings rent. Soccage is of two kinds: free soccage, where the services are not only certain but honorable; and, *villein soccage*, where the services, though certain, are of a baser nature.—*Blackstone*.

And in the execution of this Warrant, I do require and command you to lay out the said township of Stukely conformably to His Majesty's Royal instructions in this behalf, that is to say, of the dimensions of ten miles square, as nearly as circumstances shall admit, provided the said township of Stukely be not intersected, nor be situate by or upon any navigable river or water ; and of the dimensions of nine miles in front by twelve miles in depth, if the said township be intersected or be situate by or upon any navigable river or water.

Provided also, always, that in the case last mentioned the length of the said township of Stukely shall not extend along the banks of any such navigable river or water.

And I do further command you, in the subdivision of the said township, to make and reserve a proportionable allotment and appropriation of lands within the same for the maintenance and support of the protestant clergy within the said province, and for the future disposition of His Majesty: that is to say, of one-seventh part of the said township of Stukely for the maintenance and support of the protestant clergy within the said province, and of one-seventh part of the said township of Stukely for the future disposition of His Majesty ; and to allot and appropriate, as nearly as circumstances and the nature of the case will admit, lands of the like quality as the lands in respect of which the same shall be so allotted and appropriated ;

and to have a due regard at the same time to the quality and comparative value of the different parts of land comprised within the said township of Stukely, so that each grantee may have, as nearly as may be, a proportionable quantity of lands of such different quality and comparative value as aforesaid.

And I do also require and command you in such subdivision of the said township of Stukely, to lay out the said lots so that the breadth of each lot may be one-third of the length thereof, and that the length of such lot may not extend along the bank of any river, but into the mainland; so that thereby the grantees of the said township may have each a convenient share of what accommodation the said river affords for navigation or otherwise; and what you shall do in the premises, by virtue of these presents, I do hereby require and command you to certify and report to me or to the person administering the Government within the said Province, within six months from the date hereof; returning this Warrant of Survey with a plot or description of the said township of Stukely thereunto annexed, specifying the outlines of the said township of Stukely, and the several lots into which the same shall be by you subdivided, distinguished by numbers, together with the several allotments and appropriations of land within the said township of Stukely, which you shall make for the maintenance and support of the protestant clergy within this province, and for the future disposition of His Majesty

as above required and commanded, conformably to the diagram D or E respectively, as the case may be, which diagrams are now of record in your office.

And by your said return I do further require and command you to report whether there are any and what quantity of lands contained within the said township of Stukely, fit for the production of hemp and flax, or either of them.

Provided always, and I do hereby direct you, the said Surveyor-General, not to certify any plot or description of the said township of Stukely, until it shall appear unto you, by a certificate under the hand of the Surveyor-General of Woods for the said province of Lower Canada, or his deputy lawfully appointed, that the lands comprised within the said township of Stukely are not part of, or included in, any district marked out by the said Surveyor-General of Woods, or his deputy lawfully appointed, as a reservation for the growth of masting or other timber fit for the use of the Royal Navy: and if, upon the survey so by you to be made of the said township of Stukely, the said township of Stukely shall be found to include any lands returned under any former Warrant, for the purpose of avoiding all double grants of the same lands in your said report and return to be made on this Warrant to specify the same and the quantity thereof, for all which this shall be your sufficient authority—and herein fail not.

Given under my hand and seal at the castle of St.

Lewis, in the city of Quebec, in the said Province of Canada, the 20th day of May, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred, and in the fortieth year of His Majesty's reign.

(Signed,) ROBERT S. MILNES.

By His Excellency's command.

(Signed,) HERMAN W. RYLAND.

Return to His Excellency's Warrant of Survey of the township of Stukely.

To His Excellency, Robert Shore Milnes, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Lower Canada, &c., &c., &c.

Return on your Excellency's Warrant of Survey hereunto annexed, bearing date the 20th day of May, 1800, ordering the township of Stukely to be surveyed and subdivided into farm lots.

Pursuant to the said annexed Warrant, I have set off and caused to be actually surveyed, marked, measured, and bounded in the field, all that certain tract or parcel of land hereinafter described, to be forever hereafter called and known by the name of the township of Stukely: that is to say, bounded on the north by the tract commonly called the township of Ely, on the south by the township of Bolton, on the east by the tract commonly called the township of Orford, and on the west by the tract commonly called the township of Shefford.

Beginning at a post erected for the north-westerly and south-westerly coinciding corners of the said townships of Bolton and Stukely, and running thence along the division line between the aforesaid township of Stukely and the said tract commonly called the township of Shefford, north eight degrees and thirty minutes east by the needle, five hundred and eighty-five chains and forty-four links: thence along the continuation of the said division line, north fifteen degrees east by the needle, one hundred and ninety-eight chains and thirty-six links, to the north-westerly and north-easterly boundary of the coinciding corners of the township of Stukely aforesaid, and the aforesaid tract commonly called the township of Shefford: thence along the division line between the township of Stukely aforementioned, and the tract commonly called the township of Ely; south seventy-eight degrees east by the needle, eight hundred and nine chains and sixty links to the boundary of the north-easterly coinciding corners of the aforementioned township of Stukely, and the said tract commonly called the township of Orford: thence along the division line of the oftenmentioned township of Stukely and the aforesaid tract commonly called the township of Orford, south eleven degrees west by the needle, seven hundred and seventy chains and eighty links, where this line intersects the northerly bounds of the township of Bolton aforesaid: thence north seventy-nine degrees west by the needle, eight hundred and three chains and sixty links to the place of begin-

ning ; containing sixty-two thousand nine hundred and fourteen superficial acres.

And pursuant to the said annexed Warrant, I have divided the said township of Stukely into eleven rows or ranges, numbered from the south towards the north, from number one to number eleven inclusive ; the ten first ranges only whereof are of equal dimensions, the eleventh being of a lesser depth ; each of which said rows or ranges I have subdivided into eight-and-twenty lots numbered from the west towards the east, from number one to number twenty-eight inclusive ; twenty-seven lots whereof in each of the above said ten ranges are of equal front and depth ; but the lot number one in each range is of unequal dimensions conformably to the diagram hereunto annexed, making in the whole three hundred and eight lots, of which two hundred and seventy are twenty-eight chains and seventy links in front, by seventy-three chains and eighteen links in depth, containing two hundred acres in superficies and the usual allowance for highways ; but the remaining thirty-eight lots are of unequal dimensions.

And in pursuance of the said annexed Warrant, I have set off and caused to be actually surveyed, marked, measured, and bounded in the field, for the maintenance and support of the protestant clergy within this Province, for the future disposition of His Majesty, and for Samuel Willard and his associates ; that is to say,—first, “ For the maintenance and support of the protestant clergy within this Province, the lots, num-

bers" (Here are given the numbers of lots in their different ranges, which constituted the clergy reserves for the township of Stukely;) making in all, twenty-two lots, containing together, four thousand four hundred acres of land, and the usual allowance for highways, and forming, as nearly as circumstances and the nature of the case will admit, the one seventh part of the moiety of the aforesaid township of Stukely, as above described, and by your Excellency's aforesaid annexed Warrant of Survey, ordered to be respectively reserved and granted.

Secondly.—"For the future disposition of His Majesty, the lots, numbers" (Here are given a corresponding number of lots with their ranges, constituting the Crown lands within the township of Stukely;) making in all twenty lots, containing together four thousand acres of land, and the usual allowance for highways; and forming, as nearly as circumstances and the nature of the case will admit, the one seventh part of the moiety of the township of Stukely aforesaid, as above described, and by your Excellency's aforementioned annexed Warrant, ordered to be respectively reserved and granted.

And, thirdly.—"For Samuel Willard and his Associates, the lots, numbers" (And here follow the numbers of lots in their respective ranges, falling to Agent and Associate;) making in all one hundred and ten lots, containing together twenty-two thousand acres of land, and the usual allowance for highways;

and forming, exclusive of the reservations for the maintenance and support of the protestant clergy, and for the future disposition of His Majesty, the one moiety of the township of Stukely, by your Excellency's aforementioned annexed warrant ordered to be granted. No part of which said township of Stukely is included in any district marked out as a reservation for the growth of masting, or other timber fit for the use of the Royal Navy, as appears to me by a certificate under the hand of John Coffin, Esq., Surveyor-General of Woods, bearing date the 23rd day of May, 1800.

The lands of the above-mentioned township of Stukely are of tolerably good quality, and many parts thereof appear fit for the cultivation of hemp and flax.

All of which is most respectively submitted.

(Signed,) SAMUEL HOLLAND.

Surveyor-General's Office, }
 Quebec, May 23rd, 1800. }

Certificate of the Surveyor-General of Woods for the township of Stukely.

I hereby certify that no part of the lands contained in the township of Stukely, petitioned for by Samuel Willard, Esquire, situate in the Province of Lower Canada, and bounded on the west by the township of Shefford, and on the east by the township of Orford, is included in any district marked out as a reservation

for the growth of masting, or other timber fit for the use of His Majesty's Royal Navy, or has any timber upon it fit for naval use. Given under my hand at Quebec, this 21st day of May, 1800.

(Signed,) JOHN COFFIN,
Surveyor-General of Woods.

To SAMUEL HOLLAND, Esquire, }
Surveyor-General of Lands. }

PROVINCE OF } *Copy of the Charter of the township of*
LOWER CANADA. } *Shefford.*

ROBERT SHORE MILNES, *Lieutenant-Governor.*

GEORGE THE THIRD, by the Grace of GOD, of Great Britain, France and Ireland, KING, Defender of the faith, and so forth, to all to whom these presents shall come, or may in any wise concern, GREETING :

WHEREAS, in obedience to Our Royal Instructions in this behalf, and by virtue of a certain Warrant of Survey to him for that purpose directed, under the Hand and Seal of Our Trusty and Well-beloved Robert Shore Milnes, Esquire, Our Lieutenant-Governor of Our Province of Lower Canada, bearing date at Our Castle of St. Lewis, in Our City of Quebec, in Our Province of Lower Canada, the seventeenth day of July now last past: Samuel Holland, Esquire, Our Surveyor-General of and for Our said Province, hath made a faithful and exact survey

of a certain tract of Our waste land, situate, lying and being in our district of Montreal, in Our said Province ; bounded on the north by a tract of Our waste lands commonly called the township of Roxton, on the south by the township of Brome, on the east by the township of Stukely, and on the west by a tract of Our waste lands commonly called the township of Granby, beginning at a post heretofore erected for the north-westerly angle of the township of Brome, coinciding at the said post with the south-westerly angle of the aforesaid tract of Our waste lands, whereof a survey hath so, as aforesaid, been made ; and running thence north ten degrees east by the needle, eight hundred and five chains to a post heretofore erected for the north-westerly angle of the aforesaid tract of Our waste lands whereof a survey hath so, as aforesaid, been made, coinciding with the north-easterly angle of the aforesaid tract of Our waste lands, commonly called the township of Granby ; thence south eighty degrees east by the needle, eight hundred and three chains and fifty-five links to a post heretofore erected for the north-easterly angle of the aforesaid tract of Our waste lands, whereof a survey hath so, as aforesaid, been made, coinciding with the south-westerly angle of the aforesaid tract of Our waste lands, commonly called the township of Roxton ; thence south ten degrees west by the needle, eight hundred and five chains to a post heretofore erected for the south-easterly corner of the aforesaid tract of Our waste lands, whereof a survey

bath so, as aforesaid, been made, coinciding with the south-westerly corner of the township of Stukely; and thence north eighty degrees west by the needle, eight hundred and three chains and fifty-five links to the place of beginning; containing sixty-four thousand six hundred acres of land in superficies:

NOW, THEREFORE, KNOW YE, That we, of Our especial Grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, have created, erected, and constituted, and, by these presents do create, erect and constitute, the tract of land above mentioned, so, as aforesaid, surveyed by Oursaid Surveyor-General, by virtue of the aforesaid Warrant of Survey, and hereinbefore particularly described, and every part and parcel thereof, a township, forever hereafter to be, continue, and remain a township, and by the name of Shefford forever hereafter to be called, known and distinguished:

AND WHEREAS, Our Well-beloved John Savage of Caldwell Manor, in Oursaid Province of Lower Canada, Gentleman, for himself and his several associates hereinafter named, by his petition bearing date the thirty-first day of July, in the year of Our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety-two, hath humbly requested us to grant unto him and his associates hereinafter named, and unto his and their heirs and assigns forever, in free and common soccage, the aforesaid township of Shefford:

AND WHEREAS, our said Trusty and Well-beloved Robert Shore Milnes, Esquire, Our Lieutenant-Gover-

nor of Our said Province, and Our Executive Council of Our said Province, having duly and maturely considered the said petition, have thereof in part approved, and have adjudged it to be reasonable and advisable that we should grant a certain proportion of the said township of Shefford unto the said John Savage and his associates hereinafter named, and unto his and their heirs and assigns forever, in free and common soccage, upon the terms and conditions, and subject to the provisions, limitations, restrictions and reservations prescribed by the statute in such case made and provided, and by Our Royal Instructions in this behalf:

AND WHEREAS, in obedience to our said Royal Instructions, and by virtue of the aforesaid Warrant of Survey to him for this purpose also directed, our said Surveyor-General hath surveyed and divided the said township of Shefford into eleven ranges of lots numbered from the south toward the north, from number one to number eleven inclusive, of the depth of seventy-three chains and eighteen links each, and the said eleven ranges respectively hath subdivided into twenty-eight lots of equal dimensions, numbered from the west toward the east, from number one to number twenty-eight inclusive; making, in all, three hundred and eighty lots, each lot being of the breadth of twenty-eight chains and seventy links, and of the depth of seventy-three chains and eighteen links, and containing two hundred acres of land and the usual allowance for highways:

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AND WHEREAS, ALSO, Our said Surveyor-General, in obedience to the statute in such case made and provided, and to Our said Royal Instructions in this behalf, and by virtue of the aforesaid Warrant of Survey to him for this purpose also directed, hath set off, made and reserved a proportionable allotment and appropriation of lands within the said township of Shefford, as well for the maintenance and support of a protestant clergy within Our said Province, as for Our future disposition ; and further, in respect to the lands to be hereby granted, hath, for the maintenance and support of a protestant clergy within Our said Province, set off and reserved in the said township of Shefford, thirty-four lots hereinafter particularly described, being, as nearly as circumstances and the nature of the case will admit, of the like quality as the lands hereinafter granted, in respect of which the same are so set off and reserved, and are hereinafter allotted and appropriated, and as nearly as can be estimated, equal in value to one-seventh part of the lands hereinafter granted ; and further, in respect to the lands to be hereby granted, hath, for Our future disposition, also set off and reserved in the said township of Shefford, thirty-four lots, hereinafter particularly described, being, as nearly as circumstances and the nature of the case will admit, of the like quality as the lands hereinafter granted, in respect of which the same are so set off and reserved, and as nearly as can be estimated, equal in value to one-seventh part of the lands hereinafter granted.

AND WHEREAS, Our said Surveyor-General, by his return to the aforesaid Warrant of Survey, bearing date the eighth day of December now last past, hath certified and returned to Our said Lieutenant-Governor of Our said Province, a plot or description of the said township of Shefford, to the said return annexed, specifying the outlines of the said township of Shefford, the several ranges of lots and the several lots into which the said township of Shefford is so as aforesaid subdivided, severally and respectively distinguished by numbers, and likewise the several lots within the said township of Shefford, set off and reserved by Our said Surveyor-General, on Our behalf for the maintenance and support of a protestant clergy within Our said Province, and for our future disposition, as by the said Warrant of Survey he has required and commanded ; a duplicate of which said plot or description of the said township of Shefford, specifying the outlines of the said township of Shefford, the several ranges of lots, and the several lots into which the said township of Shefford is so, as aforesaid, subdivided, severally and respectively distinguished by numbers, and likewise the several lots within the said township of Shefford, set off and reserved by Our said Surveyor-General, on Our behalf, for the maintenance and support of a protestant clergy within Our said Province, and for Our future disposition, is hereunto annexed, signed by Our said Surveyor-General for the purposes herein contained :

AND WHEREAS, in further obedience to Our Royal

Instructions above-mentioned, John Coffin, Esquire, Surveyor-General of Woods of and for Our said Province, hath certified under his hand and seal that no part of the said township of Shefford, so as aforesaid, surveyed, laid out, set off, or reserved, is included in any district marked out as a reservation for the growth of timber for the use of Our Royal Navy :

AND WHEREAS, ALSO, in further obedience to Our Royal Instructions, Our Commissioners, by Us appointed for making inquiries into the character and circumstances of all and every applicant for any part of Our unoccupied waste lands, lying within Our said Province, and for administering and receiving the several Oaths, Affirmations and Declarations required by Our said Royal Instructions, have certified to Our said Lieutenant-Governor, that the said John Savage and his said associates, hereinafter named, are persons of loyal principles and good character ; and that he, and they, and each of them, have, in the presence of Our said Commissioners, taken the usual oaths directed by law, and also made and subscribed the declaration by Our said Royal Instructions in this behalf required, whereby, severally and respectively, they do promise and declare that they, and each of them, will maintain and defend to the utmost of their power, the authority of Us and of Our Parliament, as the Supreme Legislature of Our said Province :

NOW THEREFORE KNOW YE, FURTHER, that WE, having taken the premises into Our Royal Considera-

tion, have saved and reserved, allotted and appropriated, and hereby do expressly save and reserve to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, and allot and appropriate the aforesaid several lots of land in the said township of Shefford, so as aforesaid, in respect of the lands, to be hereby granted, set off and reserved by our said Surveyor-General, for the maintenance and support of a protestant clergy within the said Province, and for Our future disposition; that is to say, more particularly, and according to the form of the statute in such case made and provided, for a specification of the land so by us saved and reserved, allotted and appropriated for the maintenance and support of a protestant clergy within Our said Province; and for Our future disposition, in respect of the land to be hereby granted, We, of the several lots in the aforesaid eleven ranges of lots, so as aforesaid surveyed and laid out by Our said Surveyor-General, in the said township of Shefford, and on the said plot or description of the said township of Shefford, hereunto annexed, described, have saved and reserved, allotted and appropriated, and hereby do expressly save and reserve to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, and do allot and appropriate for the maintenance and support of a protestant clergy, within the said Province, the lots, numbers, (here follow the numbers of lots in their respective ranges, called clergy reserves,) making in all thirty-four lots, and being as nearly as circumstances, and the nature of the case will admit, of the like

quality as the lands hereinafter granted, in respect of which the same are so allotted and appropriated, and, as nearly as can be estimated, equal in value to one-seventh part of the lands hereinafter granted.

And We have saved and reserved, and hereby do expressly save and reserve to Us, our Heirs and Successors, for our future disposition, the lots, numbers, (and here follow in succession the numbers of lots in their several ranges reserved for the future disposition of the Crown, and called "Crown lands,") making in all thirty-four lots, and being as nearly as circumstances and the nature of the case will admit, of the like quality, as the lands hereinafter granted.

AND KNOW YE, FURTHER, that judging it to be reasonable and right that we should grant to the said John Savage, and to his said Associates hereinafter named, certain parts and parcels of the said township of Shefford not hereinbefore reserved to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, for the maintenance and support of a protestant clergy, within Our said Province, or for Our future disposition, We, of Our especial grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, unto the said John Savage and his said Associates: that is to say, John Savage the younger, Hezekiah Wood, John Allen, Simon Griggs, Richard Powers, John Savage, the son of Edward Savage; Peter Savage, Ezekiel Lewis, Henry Hardie, Anthony Cutler, Isaac Kinneson, Solomon Kinneson, Malcolm McFarland, Peter Hayes, Edward Graves, Henry Powers, Alexander

Douglas, Silas Lewis, John Lockhart Wiseman, James Bell, John Mock, Timothy Hoskyns, William Moffit, Thaddeus Tuttle, Isaac Lawrence, Isaac Lawrence, the younger, Elijah Lawrence, James Berry, Abraham Kinneson, John Spalding, John Katchbock, John Mock, the younger, Joseph Mock, William Bell, John Bell, and Samuel Bell, for Ourselves, Our Heirs and Successors, have given, granted, and confirmed, and by these presents, do give, grant and confirm in manner and form following, that is to say : of the several lots in the aforesaid eleven ranges of lots, so as aforesaid surveyed and laid out by Our said Surveyor-General, in the said township of Shefford, and in the said plot or description of the said township of Shefford hereunto annexed, described, We have given, granted, and confirmed, and hereby do give, grant and confirm, for Ourselves, Our Heirs, and Successors, unto the said John Savage, and his heirs and assigns forever, the lots, numbers. (Here follow in succession the lots with their respective numbers and ranges, apportioned to each of the several parties.) "TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said several lots of land and premises above described, and hereinbefore given, granted and confirmed unto Our said several grantees above named, severally and respectively ; of Us, Our Heirs and Successors, unto them Our said grantees, and to each of them severally and respectively ; and to the heirs and assigns of them, Our said grantees, and of each of them, severally and respectively ; to the use and

behooof of them, Our said grantees, severally and respectively; and to the use and behoof of the heirs and assigns of them, Our said grantees, and of each of them, severally and respectively; forever, in free and common Soccage, by fealty only, in lieu of all other and all manner of rents, services, fines, rights, dues, duties, claims and demands whatsoever, in like manner as lands are now holden in free and common soccage in that part of great Britain called England: And We do hereby give and grant for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, unto Our said grantees, and each of them, their heirs and assigns, and the heirs and assigns of each of them respectively, full power and liberty to use, occupy, cultivate, and enjoy the lots of land and premises, hereby to them granted, in any manner, which he or they shall think fit, by cutting down the trees growing thereon, by cultivating the surface of the ground thereof, or by any other method of improvement whatsoever, and to apply the profits thereof to their own use and benefit.

PROVIDED ALWAYS, and We do hereby expressly reserve to Ourselves, Our Heirs, and successors, all mines of gold and silver which now are, or which shall be found, upon the said lots of land and premises hereby granted, or any of them, or any part thereof; so that the said mines and each of them shall belong to Us, Our Heirs and successors, in as full and ample manner as if the present grant had never been made.

And We do hereby likewise expressly reserve to

Ourselves, Our Heirs, and successors, full power, right and authority to make and use all such roads, ways and passages over the said lots of land and premises hereby granted, or any part thereof, and also to take, stop, direct, and use all such rivers, streams, ponds, and bodies of water, as shall by Us or Them be judged necessary or convenient for working and improving the said mines or any of them.

AND PROVIDED, FURTHER, if any mine or mines of gold or silver shall be found upon any lots of land hereby granted, the grantee or grantees possessing such lot or lots, or his or their heirs or assigns possessing such lot or lots, or one of them, shall within the space of six months after the discovery thereof, give notice of such discovery to Our Governor of Our said Province, or to Our Lieutenant-Governor or Person administering the Government of Our said Province for the time being; and if he or they shall make default therein, the present grant so far, as the same doth or shall in any wise respect such lot or lots, shall, at the end of the said six months next ensuing after such discovery of any mine or mines of gold or silver, become void, and such lot or lots and every part thereof hereby granted shall revert and escheat to Us, Our Heirs and successors, and shall thereupon become the absolute and entire property of Us or Them, in the same manner as if the present grant had never been made: anything herein contained to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding:

AND WHEREAS, it may hereafter become expedient

for the said inhabitants of the said Province of Lower Canada, that one or more public roads or highways should be made through some parts of the premises hereby granted, WE DO, therefore, hereby reserve to Ourselves, Our Heirs and successors, a right of making any number of public roads or highways, of a breadth not exceeding one hundred feet, through any part of the said premises: excepting such parts whereon any dwelling-house or other houses, or other buildings, shall be erected :

AND WHEREAS, it may, likewise, at some time hereafter, become expedient for the peace and safety of Our said Province of Lower Canada to erect and build forts and fortresses, or to make other works of military defence in various parts of Our said Province, We do therefore, also, hereby reserve to Ourselves, Our Heirs and Successors, full power and authority to erect and build any Forts or Fortresses, or to make any other works of military defence on any part of the said premises hereby granted; and to take, use, occupy, and retain in Our hands, as long as We shall think fit, such parts of the said premises hereby granted as may be necessary for the said purposes, whenever We, Our Heirs or Successors, shall signify it to be Our or Their pleasure so to do, by an order given by Us or Them, in Our or Their Privy Council in Great Britain; or whenever it shall be judged advisable and expedient so to do, by Our Governor, Lieutenant-Governor or Person administering the Government of Our said Province.

AND PROVIDED, ALWAYS, and these Our present Letters are, upon this express condition: that if the said grantees, their heirs or assigns, or some or one of them, shall not, within one year next after the date of these Our Present Letters, settle on the premises hereby to them granted, so many families as shall amount to one family for every twelve hundred acres thereof; or if they, the said grantees, their heirs or assigns, or some or one of them, shall not, within three years to be computed as aforesaid, plant and effectually cultivate at least two acres for every hundred acres of such of the hereby granted premises as are capable of cultivation, and shall not also, within seven years, to be computed as aforesaid, plant and effectually cultivate at least seven acres for every hundred acres of such of the hereby granted premises as are capable of cultivation; that then, and in any of these cases, this, Our present grant, and everything therein contained, shall cease and be absolutely void, and the lands and premises hereby granted shall revert and escheat to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, and shall thereupon become the absolute and entire property of Us or Them in the same manner as if this, Our present grant, had never been made: anything therein contained to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

AND PROVIDED ALSO, that no part of the said parcel or tract of land, hereby granted to Our said grantees, and their heirs or assigns, be within any reservation heretofore made and marked for Us, Our Heirs and

Successors, by Our Surveyor-General of Woods or his lawful Deputy; in which case this, Our grant, for such part of the land hereby given and granted to Our said grantees and their heirs and assigns forever, as aforesaid, which shall, upon a survey thereof being made, be found within any such reservation, shall be null and void, and of none effect: any thing herein contained to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

AND WE Do hereby direct and appoint: that, within six months from the date of these Presents, a copy of this grant shall be registered in Our Register's Office, in Our City of Quebec, in Our said Province of Lower Canada; and, that in default thereof, the whole premises hereby granted shall revert and escheat to Us, Our Heirs and Successors, and become the absolute property of Us or Them, in the same manner as if this present grant had never been made: any thing therein contained to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

AND WE Do, moreover, of Our especial Grace, certain knowledge and mere motion, consent and agree that these, Our present letters, being registered, and a docket thereof made as before directed and appointed, shall be good and effectual in law, to all intents, constructions, and purposes whatsoever, against Us, Our Heirs, and Successors, notwithstanding any mis-reciting, mis-bounding, mis-naming, or other imperfection or omission of, or in any wise concerning, the above granted, or hereby mentioned or intended to be granted, lots of land and premises, or any part thereof.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent, and the Great Seal of Our said Province of Lower Canada to be hereunto affixed. Witness, Our Trusty and Well-beloved Robert Shore Milnes, Esq., Our Lieutenant-Governor in and over Our said Province of Lower Canada, at Our Castle of Saint Lewis, in Our city of Quebec in Our said Province, the tenth day of February in the year of Our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and One, and in the forty-first year of Our Reign.

(Signed,) R. S. M.

(Signed,) GEORGE POWNAL, *Secretary.*

I do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the original Letters Patent deposited, and remaining forever of Public Record in the Secretary's office at Quebec, conformably to the Provincial Statute in the case made and provided.

GEORGE POWNAL,
Sec. and Register.

BY HIS EXCELLENCY,

Robert Shore Milnes, Esquire, Lieutenant-Governor of the
Province of Lower Canada, &c., &c., &c.

To all whom these Presents may concern:

I do hereby certify that the Honorable Sir George Pownal, Knight, is Secretary of the Province of Lower Canada, duly commissioned and authorized as such.

In consequence whereof, full faith and entire credit are, and ought to be given to his signature in such capacity whenever the same may appear.

Given under my hand, and the Great Seal of the Province of Lower Canada aforesaid, at the Castle of Saint Lewis, in the city of Quebec in the said Province, the fourteenth day of February, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and one, and in the forty-first year of His Majesty's Reign.

ROBERT S. MILNES,

Lieut.-Governor.

By His Excellency's command,

GEO. POWNAL, *Secretary.*

WHEREAS, John Savage, of the county of———, in the Province of Lower Canada, Gentleman, hath, at great expense and trouble, obtained a Warrant of Survey for himself and his associates, for a tract of land or township in the Province of Lower Canada, now known by the name of Shefford, and is further subjected to the payment of considerable sums, for allotting said township, and for official fees in order to obtain a Patent thereof, the burthen and expense of which he hath taken upon himself :

AND WHEREAS, the said John Savage hath, of his own free will, chosen and named me,———, for one of the associates in the Patent of the said township, or described tract, for the express purpose of re-conveying a part of the same to him, agreeable to my

contract to reimburse him for his said expenditures, and as a remuneration for his trouble :

AND WHEREAS, for the said purpose of indemnifying the said John Savage as well for the heavy expenses which he hath incurred, as aforesaid, as for his trouble and other charges attending the said business ; and to carry into effect the true intent and meaning of my bargain with him ; as also for other considerations me thereunto moving, that on having my name inserted as a tenant in common, in the Patent for the said tract of land or township now known by the name of Shefford or by whatever other name the above described tract of land or township may be hereafter known or called, I or they shall and will immediately, and without delay, and in due form of law, agreeably to the laws of the Province of Lower Canada, execute a sufficient Deed of Conveyance to the said John Savage, his heirs or assigns, or to such person or persons as he may order or appoint to receive such Deed of all the right or share to which I may or shall be entitled in the said tract of land or township, by virtue of my being so introduced as an Associate, and of my name being inserted in the Patent thereof, to the same in fee simple, to him or them, and to his or their heirs and assigns, forever, except two hundred acres which it was agreed by the said John Savage and m., that I should hold, improve and possess :

AND WHEREAS I, the said _____, d'd thereby

freely acknowledge and declare that though in virtue of my being introduced as an Associate, I may obtain a grant of one full share as a tenant in common in the Patent of the afore described tract of land or township now known by the name of Shefford, yet, in consideration of the premises, the true intent and meaning is, and it is so agreed and covenanted by and between the said John Savage and me, that I shall not possess in my own right more than two hundred acres therein; but that I shall reconvey the remaining part of my said right or share to him, the said John Savage, his heirs or assigns:

Now KNOW ALL MEN, that for the purpose of carrying into full effect the true intent and meaning of my agreement as covenanted in my said herein recited act or deed, I have, by these presents, irrevocably made, ordained and constituted, and hereby do irrevocably make, ordain and constitute, and in my place and stead put and depute my trusty loving friends ————— for me and in my name as soon after the signing and ensealing of the said Letters Patent for the said township of Shefford, or of any part thereof, as conveniently as may be, to cede, assign, convey, transfer, alien and confirm to the said John Savage, his heirs or assigns, or to such person or persons as he may order or appoint to receive such deed of all the right or share to which I may or shall be entitled in the said tract of land or township, by virtue of my being so introduced as an

Associate, and of my name being inserted in the Letters Patent thereof, in fee simple, to him or them, and to his or their heirs and assigns, forever, with all my estate, right, title, interest, claim and demand whatsoever, in and unto the said premises and every part and parcel thereof, except two hundred acres,* which it is covenanted and agreed between the said John Savage and me, that I should hold, improve and possess, subject to certain conditions, as in the said agreement stipulated: as also for me, and in my name, place and stead, and as my proper act and deed to execute, seal, and deliver such conveyances and assurances of the said premises as shall be requisite in that behalf; and, generally, all and every other act and acts, thing and things, device and devices in the law whatsoever, needful and necessary to be done in and about the premises for me, and in my name to do, execute and perform, as fully, largely and amply, to all intents and purposes, as I, myself, might or could do if I was personally present, or as if the matter required more special authority than is herein given: ratifying, allowing and holding for firm and effectual all and whatsoever my said Attorneys shall lawfully do in and about the premises by virtue thereof.

* It was by no means unusual to specify a greater number of acres.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand
and seal at _____, this ____ day of _____,
in the _____ year of His Majesty's Reign, and in the
year of our Lord one thousand _____

Signed,

Sealed and delivered in the presence of }

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CHAPTER II.

Isaac Lawrence, a person of some means and influence, settled in Canaan, Connecticut, at an early period in the history of that colony. He had come from Groton in the older colony of Massachusetts, at which time his household goods were first landed under a pine tree in the wilderness of Canaan. As the place was rapidly settled, he in time came to occupy situations of trust and responsibility in the community; and from being one of the founders of the place, was identified with all its material and social interests.

That he was a person of eccentric habits and peculiar tastes, we may infer not only from traditionary anecdotes among his posterity, but from relics that have survived the ravages of time and change; among which we may be allowed to mention a set of solid silver buttons of octagonal form, on which were engraved "Isaac Lawrence, 1759." He likewise had the same engraved on the stone steps at the front door of his house in Canaan. The homestead is still in possession of the family descendants, by whom the inscription was carefully renewed a short time since.

As illustrative of his geniality of humor and kindness of heart, it is related of him that soon after the surren-

der of General Burgoyne, while a number of prisoners apparently weary as well as humiliated were being taken by their guard through the place, Mr. Lawrence, who was standing in the door of his house, in a voice that arrested immediate attention, called out, "John!" when the whole company looked up as if to ask what was meant. Without knowing one of them by name, but acting from the kindly impulse of the moment as he thought of the men hungry as well as weary, and that there might be a "John" among so many, he had thus drawn their attention, when by leave of their guard they were allowed to rest and refresh themselves with the best the house afforded, which was thus freely offered by its owner; after which the men went on their way.

Isaac Lawrence, junior, was born in this house at Canaan, Connecticut, March 5th, 1737, and on the 18th of March, 1760, married Mary, daughter of Deacon — Brown of Stockbridge, Mass., by whom he had six sons and five daughters.

Further account of Mrs. Mary Lawrence, especially in the relations of wife and mother, in which characters she excelled, will be found in other parts of this work.

Before the revolution and while yet their elder children were young. Mr. Lawrence, junior, was induced to try his fortunes farther north, and removed his family to Hinesburg near Burlington, Vt., at which latter place but a mere commencement had been made; but, in consequence of the breaking out of the war, and the

threatened incursions and depredations of the Indians, the family were driven back in haste to the shelter of their home in Connecticut, by which they suffered the loss of nearly all their worldly substance. Knowing well the difficulty of transportation, and purposing to return at some future period, they buried such articles of domestic use as they thought would keep in the ground, consisting of hardware, crockery, &c. ; when, after peace was ratified and tranquillity restored to the impoverished country, they returned, and found not only that their house had been burnt to the ground, but that the articles they had buried and expected to find safe, had been discovered and stolen away ; * and to add to their dismay and utter discouragement, the title to three hundred acres of land, which had been bought and paid for, proved worthless ; the person of whom the purchase had been made, was dead, so that there was no redress.

He, however, re-purchased one hundred acres of the same land, on which he erected buildings, and made such other improvements as he was able ; but the wants

* Some of the articles thus lost were afterwards found in the possession of an individual near St. Albans, Vt. Information to that effect reached Mr. Lawrence through a person who, while in that vicinity, had heard of certain articles having been found in Hinesburg ; when, armed with authority in the shape of a warrant, Mr. L. went to the place, and searched the suspected premises, where he found several articles which he could identify, and at the same time claimed and received compensation for others which were lost.

of a large and growing family were pressing, and, in connection with their heavy losses, caused serious embarrassment.

For one whole year after their return to Hinesburg, theirs was the only family in the town; their nearest neighbours on the one hand being at Burlington, ten miles, and on the other hand at Monkton, seven miles distant. After an ineffectual struggle of eleven years to rise above the depressing influences that seemed combined against them, Mr. Lawrence gave up thought of remaining there, and, at this juncture, having heard from a reliable source of the generous offers the British Government was making to encourage the permanent settlement of Canada, he was induced to try his fortunes there, it seeming to him as an opening of Providence in behalf of his rising family of sons. For the purpose of availing himself of the advantages offered, he visited the country in 1793, when he made choice of a location in Shefford, to which place he removed his family the following winter. Several of the elder children, including two daughters, were married and settled; so that at this time only the four younger children, a daughter and three sons, were remaining at home, though all the sons subsequently followed their father to Canada.

As has already been said, Mr. Lawrence's worldly interests had been materially injured by the failure of his first attempt at establishing a home in the wilds of Vermont, so that when this later enterprise was undertaken his means were quite limited. He took

with him a yoke of oxen, two cows, a horse, proper farming utensils, their household goods, and the means of subsistence for a year, with sufficient money for travelling purposes. The family came on in the winter of 1794, in a sleigh drawn by hired horses; but as there were as yet few dwellings on their route of travel, they were obliged to pass one night camped (Indian hunter style,) in the woods, between Conroy's Mills (since called Slab City or Frelighsburg) and West Shefford, then the residence of Captain John Savage, grantee of the township. The men of the party cleared away the snow, kindled a fire, and procured a quantity of hemlock boughs,* some of the larger branches of which were set in the snow, in a circle around, so as to keep out the wind, while of the smaller boughs their bed was made. The second day they reached their destination, when they found shelter in the house of a Mr. Towner, one of the only two families living in Shefford at the time; remaining there till a shanty could be erected for their accommodation. Henry, the eldest of the four children, had remained in St. Armand to make sugar, when, after the season was over, he joined the family at Shefford; and as soon as the roads were sufficiently settled in the Spring, the two elder boys returned to Hinesburg for their cattle.

* This custom was said to be derived from the Indians, and was adopted universally by hunters and those obliged to pass the night in the woods; it being thought that this use of hemlock prevented taking cold from the exposure.

After the erection of their shanty of twelve feet square,—the walls of logs, and the roof of barks,—and of a shed built of poles and bark, under which was a sort of primitive fire-place to be used for cooking, their attention was turned to the cultivation of what little ground could be got ready for use, and, when the crops were in, to the erection of a dwelling of more comfortable dimensions, as their shanty did not allow them the luxury of a bed; they being obliged to sleep on hemlock boughs, which were laid aside during the day.

A log house was built, twenty-four feet in length by eighteen in breadth, which was divided into two rooms, the partition and doors being made of split and hewn timbers: then came a log barn and stable; after which the time was occupied in felling trees and clearing land to plant and sow the next Spring, except such time as was necessarily taken up in bringing grain and other articles of provision from the nearest point where they could be obtained.

Henry, on whom this duty invariably fell, as he was the eldest child at home, and consequently best fitted for the task, was generally absent four days in these excursions; his usual helper in seasons of the year when the roads allowed of it, being the pony, for which two and a half bushels of grain formed a load, while the boy walked at the side of the animal. Sometimes after wet weather the paths were almost impassable, so that the poor creature had not power to flounder through with such a burden upon his back,

when the only way was for the boy to wade barefoot into the mud, and transfer the load to his own shoulders, leaving the poor beast at liberty to struggle out.

We must not omit to mention that in all these journeyings back and forth, it was necessary to be prepared with materials for lighting fire, which, in those days, consisted of flint, steel, and spunk, all of which were carried in the pocket.

This necessity was the more obvious from the fact, that one night had to be passed in the woods, while going each way ; when it was customary to turn the horse loose to browse, to feed from the tender twigs of trees, or otherwise refresh himself, tie a bell round his neck lest he should wander too far, and then prepare for the night's lodging by kindling a fire and collecting the invariably used hemlock boughs.

During the first year after the arrival of Mr. Lawrence's family, their supplies were procured within a short distance of Missisquoi Bay, (now called Philipsburg) forty-three miles distant.

The road then passed on this route was very nearly the same as that now travelled through West Shefford, Farnham, Dunham, St. Armand, &c. ; and was first opened by Captain John Savage, who came to West Shefford, with his family, in 1793, nearly a year previous to the coming of Mr. Lawrence.

He had pioneered the way,—compass in one hand to keep straight on his course, axe in the other to mark the trees which were to indicate the way taken ; fol-

lowed by men who cut down the trees and cleared away the underbrush to make way for the ox sleds, which were laden with household goods and provisions; while the family brought up the rear. Between Conroy's Mills and West Shefford, a distance of twenty-four miles, was one unbroken wilderness; the road having been opened, as above described, and indicated by "marked trees," or, as called by others, "spotted lines," to guide the wayfarer.

The only modes of travelling were either in sleighs, or ox-sleds, on horseback, or on foot; and as there were no bridges over the streams, the wayfarer who came upon them when too high to be forded, must either wait till they subsided, swim over, fell a tree to cross upon, or construct some sort of a raft.

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CHAPTER III.

In November, 1794, Mr. Lawrence's family found themselves destitute of the article of salt, and of course must send for it to Missisquoi Bay ; when it was decided that in consequence of the stormy weather and wretched roads, Henry must go the whole way on foot. Arrived at his destination, the boy found salt at three dollars per bushel ; but, after much persuasion, the trader, out of consideration for his young customer, consented to a reduction of twenty-five per cent. The journey back and forth was accomplished in a little more than three days, the boy on his return bringing a bag with forty-two and a half pounds of salt, which load was further increased by the addition of other articles of necessity.

No accident befell him on the occasion ; and, though the labour was extreme for his young frame, the task was in a measure lightened by the company of a fellow traveller, who was bound on the same or a similar errand.

In order to make the necessary provision for their cattle, the wild grass on a beaver meadow about three miles from their house had been cut, dried and stacked on the ground, to be removed, when snow should fall, that it might be taken to the barn. Unfortunately,

however, when winter came on, the snow fell to such a depth as to render it impossible to get at the hay, so that the only resource was browsing; when this, with the constant work, which was necessary to keep the roads open, proved too much for the poor beasts, inducing disease, of which some of them died. Later in the winter, as the snow lay in its greatest depths, and they feared to lose the remaining animals, the only way to get any hay to them was by going on snow-shoes and drawing it on a hand-sled over the deep drifts. Despite their best efforts, the oxen and one cow died, and the poor horse was reduced to the horrible necessity of relieving the cravings of hunger by preying, like a wild beast, on the carcasses of the dead animals. This seems almost incredible; yet, though a most disgusting one, is nevertheless a well authenticated one. In such a way did poor pony struggle on and escape a dreadful death.

Before the great fall of snow the family had supplied themselves with such provisions as it was intended should last them till after seed time; which, as the land had been prepared in the fall, it was determined should come on as early as the season would permit; but now began trouble in earnest; and, as the spring approached, they looked forward with anxiety, for their means, at best limited, were becoming nearly exhausted. They had not even the seed necessary to put into the ground; and on the coming harvest their all of earthly comfort depended. Henry, who was their main-stay, they knew

to be fruitful in resources to meet emergencies and overcome difficulties, and he was despatched in search of assistance ; his first application being to a Mr. Chamberlin, of Richmond, Vt., who, being a nephew of Mrs. Lawrence, and acquainted with their affairs, was the more readily induced to interest himself in their behalf. He did so by going to Connecticut ; where he obtained something from the estate of Mr. Lawrence, senior, then deceased, with which he returned to Henry, who had waited and worked for this friend in his absence. What was thus obtained, with other assistance from Mr. Chamberlin, revived the courage of the young man ; who started at once on his return home, that he might relieve the anxiety he knew must be felt at his prolonged absence. At Fairfield, Vt., where one of his elder brothers lived, he obtained four new axes, which, in addition to the provision necessary, sixty-five dollars in silver and a quantity of garden seeds, formed a pack weighing over forty pounds, to be carried on his back.

At Conroy's Mills he took the necessary precaution of making an axe helve and sharpening an axe which he carried in his hand ready for use in case of need ; and it was well that he did this, for, on arriving at the south branch of the Yamaska river (at the place now called Churchville), he found the stream so high in consequence of the spring flood and breaking up of the ice, that it was impossible to pass without forming a raft ; but, as some time had been spent in preparing his axe, it was quite late in the day when he reached

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the river. It had been very stormy though not very cold; a damp snow had fallen, and he was hungry, weary and chilly, being too thinly clad for the season; so that, when this new obstacle presented itself, he was, at first, almost staggered. But his course was soon determined upon, and he commenced the work of felling trees, clearing them of branches, and binding them together with withes. When this was done, and the raft was ready for launching, the snow had ceased falling, the clouds had passed away, the setting sun appeared in the western horizon, and a bleak, piercing wind had commenced blowing up the river. Before him was the turbulent stream overflowing its banks; and, as the darkness of night approached, he hesitated before attempting to cross, knowing that he must camp in the woods, and thinking that the water might partially subside before morning; but the result will show the mistake he made in deciding to wait overnight.

Being invariably prepared with the necessary material for kindling fire, his mind was no sooner made up, than the snow was cleared away from a spot of ground, the useful hemlock gathered, the fire lighted, and he prepared as usual for rest. In the course of the night, the water did partially subside as he had expected, and the wind had lulled; but the morning broke clear and intensely cold, when it was found that an ice two inches thick had formed for some distance from either bank, leaving the deep channel of the

stream open. Here was a dilemma ! but we will give his own account of the adventure.

“ After spending the night as comfortably as the nature of my accommodations would allow, with the morning dawn I was astir ; when, to my utter dismay, I found that an ice of considerable thickness had formed from either bank ; but, after breaking it with my setting-pole, and thinking that I could do the same on the opposite side, I launched the raft, and embarked with sack and axe. But a new and unthought of difficulty now appeared, as on approaching the other, bank I found it impossible to break the ice so as to affect a landing, for such was the strength and rapidity of the current, that both setting-pole and my utmost strength were in constant requisition to keep the raft from being carried down the stream ; so that after repeated and vain attempts to gain the shore, I found myself going down the deep, open channel without power to land on either side. While passing at the mercy of the current around a bend in the river, I found the water less deep and rapid than in any place I had seen ; and with this discovery came the instant resolution of abandoning the raft, and throwing myself into the water ; so, dropping the pole, with concentrated strength I threw the axe ashore, and, grasping the sack, leaped into the river, which at that point was nearly up to my chin. So strong was the current that a struggle was necessary to gain a footing ; but life and death were before me ; and, with a strength born of desperation, I

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seized the sack with both hands and commenced breaking the ice with it. In the emergency, the heavy contents were of good use; but as I neared the shore, where the water was more shallow and the ice was thicker, the work was hard, yet hope gave strength; I worked with a will, and the blows from my sack fell hard and fast. After leaving the water my first effort was to find the axe I had thrown ashore, and then to regain the road. I had gone but a short distance before my clothes were frozen stiff; and being wet to the skin, it was apparent that life depended upon exertion, as I must walk ten miles before reaching human habitation. To think, was to act with a promptness and fortitude which I now look back upon with wonder; and after regaining the road, I had proceeded some twenty rods, when in making a short descent and stepping on some ice which was covered by the snow, I slipped, and fell in such a posture, as brought the corner of the axe in contact with my right knee, penetrating the clothing, and cutting a gash in the flesh about an inch long. Fortunately no large arteries or cords were severed; and though the blood flowed profusely, I had no means of stanching it, every shred of my clothing being wet; so, seeing that my only chance for life depended on keeping in rapid motion, I pressed forward with my utmost strength, the blood continuing to ooze from the wound and freeze to my clothes, which gave me an unnatural, and I must think, a most revolting appearance.

“In this miserable plight, I reached West Shefford about ten o'clock. It would be a fruitless task to attempt describing my feelings while in this danger. In all the exciting scenes incident to a backwoodsman's life, I had ever felt that there was a great and watchful Father, whose eye was over His creatures; and to this Father I had been learned to pray. The great truths of revealed religion were early taught me by my mother, to whom I was indebted for nearly all the instruction I had ever received of a moral or religious nature. Of the advantages of school education I knew comparatively nothing, having been but five years old when my father returned to Hinesburg from Connecticut; so that my mother had been my teacher in all things. Her word or wish, if it could be forestalled, was my law; and I was not only anxious to please her, but much attached to the other members of the family, and anxious to be useful to them; knowing that I was greatly depended upon—was necessary to their comfort—had undertaken this journey alone and on foot, and incurred this peril in their behalf. These things crowded upon my mind in a confused mass of vague and hurried imaginings; but high above all these, was another and stronger motive that impelled me to strive for dear life. I wished yearningly to live, and feared, O how I feared, to die! for now was seen that I was not prepared. With death staring me in the face, came the conviction that it was not enough to have been an obedient and

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dutiful child, or a kind and affectionate brother, as it had been my highest ambition to be considered. All these things seemed of little account, now that I was about to meet the God against whom I had sinned. It was a fearful looking forward into an unknown futurity! a yawning chasm seemed opening before me! O, it was a moment of agony!

“But the time of imminent peril is that for prompt action, rather than for reason or reflection. With death seeming almost inevitable, I clung with despairing tenacity to life, and with a convulsive, desperate effort succeeded in escaping the death I so much dreaded.

“I am now an old man, and have experienced many vicissitudes during a life prolonged beyond the three score years and ten, allotted; yet the scene as above described, still retains its freshness; the impressions then and there received their force and vigour, and will so continue while memory lasts.”

We have omitted to notice that one of the elder sons of Mr. Lawrence had already settled at West Shefford, so that a resting place awaited Henry on his arrival there; but as soon as he was refreshed and somewhat improved in personal appearance, he crossed the river in a canoe, and, borrowing a pair of snowshoes, hastened home, well knowing what must be the anxiety of his family at his absence, prolonged several weeks. His mother received him almost as if alive from the dead; and all were rejoiced, as well at see-

ing him alive and well, as at the timely relief he had brought them in this their hour of need. Not only had they suffered fears on his account, but for themselves, as they were nearly destitute of the necessaries of life.

Though the money brought was most welcome, the staff of life could not be obtained nearer than Missisquoi Bay, and Henry was the one to go. So after a rest of about ten days at home, he again set out on foot as the poor horse was too much reduced by famine to be of use. The boy first went to the usual rendezvous, but could find nothing of what he most wanted at that place, and was obliged to go to West Alburgh, where he found wheat for sale; when, hiring a man and canoe, and borrowing a number of bags, they brought twenty bushels of wheat around to the landing. Then returning, he took back the boat and bags, when he looked up a yoke of cattle, to replace those they had lost. These he was obliged to drive several miles around the head of the bay, through obstacles of various kinds, having often to wade in the water; sometimes to remove flood wood for the cattle to pass; to cross the mouth of Pike river in a scow, &c., finally reaching the landing where his wheat was left. Here, supplying himself with seed corn, which with other necessaries filled his knapsack, he once more started for home, driving the cattle before him; where he arrived the first of May. Now was a busy time, and it was during this planting season, that the family first began to

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feel the real want of bread ; but knowing what depended on having this work done in season, they saw the importance of perseverance, and eked out a subsistence with the help of their few vegetables, rather than spare the now precious time that it would take to go for flour. When the crops were in the ground, and the spring's work done, time was taken to send, with the now recruited pony, for a supply of breadstuff, and Henry was sent again to Vermont, from whence he drove home a cow to supply the place of the one lost. After this there was no more want of the necessaries of life in the household of our friends. Luxuries they had not, nor did they crave them ; but ever after this they had an abundance of the staff of life. Their crops, for the season, were fine ; the land, being new and productive, rewarded their labours abundantly, and as particular pains had been taken with the garden, they had secured a plentiful supply of excellent vegetables.

Though as a matter of course, they were unavoidably subjected to the many nameless inconveniences and privations incident to a residence in a new country, perseverance had secured the essentials of worldly comfort, and laid a good foundation for the future. During the season, considerable land had been commenced upon, in and around their vicinity, and farming operations begun, making the opening of a nearer way of communication with the city of Montreal a matter much to be desired. Indeed, it had become a question of necessity, for the route, hitherto travelled by way

of Missisquoi Bay, was entirely too circuitous and lengthy. The discovery had been made that it was but little more than twenty miles to the French Seignories, and that many articles of domestic necessity could be procured at Yamaska, which was even then quite a village.

But the great difficulty in this, was not only that the whole country necessary to pass was in a state of nature, an unbroken wilderness; but the path, indicated by marked trees alone, passed over swamps and morasses, through which it was impossible for a horse to struggle; one in particular, being one hundred and seventy rods in breadth, in which the water and mud were from four to six feet deep. Of course these could only be crossed by the foot traveller, who picked his way through on the fallen timbers and mossy formations with which swamps abound. The line led through Granby, Yamaska Mountain, and St. Pie; though what are now flourishing villages, were then unmarked by human dwelling. As inhabitants multiplied, it became customary for several persons to join company in going for these supplies, thus rendering the journey less solitary and gloomy. After this opening, the family of Mr. Lawrence obtained their necessities through this channel.

Companies of Indians often visited localities around, which were their former hunting grounds. They were generally quiet and inoffensive, unless finding where liquor was to be had, when the temptation was too strong to be resisted, and they begged and pleaded for

a very little. If they got that little, they became clamorous for more; and if they got more, it made them noisy and often quarrelsome among themselves. Occasionally painted faces would appear, greatly to the alarm of the timid, but they never offered violence. The men soberly and civilly confined themselves to hunting and fishing, while the women were busied in making baskets, moccasins, and other articles known as Indian manufactures, and trafficking them with the settlers, from whom they usually received provisions in return. Once in awhile, one would seem to have more acquaintance with the usages of civilized life; one in particular, of whom the writer was told, had clothes of the best broadcloth, and his linen was of the finest texture, all being made after the fashion of the times; while a large piece of dark cloth served as a great coat or blanket. This suit was kept for visits to the cities, or other (to him) great occasions; while when with his people on their hunting and fishing excursions, he wore their common dress. He belonged to the St. Francis tribe, and professed to have been a militia officer in the service of government.

Their wigwams were built of poles driven into the ground, and drawn nearly together at the top; a small opening being left for smoke to pass out. The fire was in the centre, in a sort of cavity, around which the ground elevated a little. The sides of the dwelling were interlaced with barks and boughs; hemlock being invariably used for bedding, and to keep out the cold.

CHAPTER IV.

Mr. Lawrence had succeeded so well in putting up his own buildings, that his skill was called into requisition in the erection of a mill, at the place now known as "Knowlton's Falls," some six miles from his residence; and during the father's absence, which was turned to good account for the family, Henry was principally depended upon to manage matters at home. Late in the fall of 1795, while going to help to raise the bulkhead of the mill on which his father was employed, in passing through the wood at a place where there was no "spotted line" to mark out the path, he got bewildered, lost his way entirely, and after wandering about the whole afternoon, during which a violent rain commenced falling, approaching night found him in the middle of a large swamp, from which it was impossible to find his way out in the fast increasing darkness. The best he could do was to secure a firm footing on the prostrate trunk of a decayed tree, and support himself against the body of one erect; thus passing the night in a standing attitude. To complete the horrors of his situation, it had become intensely dark, the rain poured in torrents, and it was impossible to kindle a fire, though he was wet to the skin and shivering

with cold. He could not have slept; being too keenly alive to the dangers by which he was surrounded, in not knowing the moment when one or more of the savage beasts, with which these woods were known to be infested, might pounce upon him, alone as he was, and utterly without means of defence. At times, his courage failed, and in despair he gave himself up as lost, imagining that should he survive the night, he must have wandered far from the place where he went astray, and consequently far from hope of help; and his mind would sink under the conviction that he had seen the faces of his friends for the last time on earth. Then came frenzied feelings respecting the dear ones at home, who could never know his fate; after which he would endeavour to familiarize his mind with thoughts of death and eternity. But, as on a former occasion, the grim messenger seemed clothed with terrors; and he would at once seek refuge in the hope and prayer that he might be spared and given time for repentance; when again the hope would rise that there might be some way of escape from the dreadful death his imagination painted. After maintaining his comfortless watch the livelong night, the while alternating between hope and fear, he hailed, with renewed courage, the first beams of morning; and though wet, cold, hungry and weary, as soon as surrounding objects became distinctly discernible, he looked about for some landmark which would indicate a course that might lead him out of his difficulty. No familiar

object met his view ; but seeing the top of a mountain at a short distance, rising above the tops of the intervening trees, which in that particular direction seemed of diminutive growth, he shaped his course for that object ; ere long emerging from the swamp, and falling in with a brook of running water, which he then took as a guide, and followed in its windings till it came to a larger stream, in which it lost itself ; then following the course of the river, about ten o'clock in the morning, to his surprise and joy, he came upon the opening where was situated the very mill his father was engaged in building ; to the raising of which he had started the previous day. But no one was there now ; the weather had been and still continued so stormy and cold, that all had left for their homes, and as the season was far advanced with every prospect of an early winter, the work on the mill was suspended till the following spring.

It would seem that on first getting bewildered, instead of pursuing a straight line, as he had thought to do, he had taken a circuitous course, and must have passed and repassed the same points repeatedly, without being at all aware of it ; which was probably owing in part to his excited fears, and in part to the "warring elements" which were raging around him ; and this accounts for his not having gone further from the starting point.

The mountain, mentioned as having been the first prominent object that met his eye in the morning,

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while in search of something to guide him, proved to be the Shefford mountain, which was really, to him, one of the most familiar objects in the country; having often passed and repassed it in his frequent journeyings to and fro through the wilderness; yet, having never before seen it from that point of view, it seemed strange.

He has since repeatedly visited the scene of this adventure, and become intimately acquainted with the localities of mountain, swamp and river; examined their relative distances, and even followed the windings of the little brook that proved such a friend on that occasion; and was thus more and more convinced that he was going round and round, and at the same time getting further and further from the right way.

This adventure, as well as that in which he had experienced so marked a deliverance from death by drowning, left a lively impression on a mind of strong religious bias, and susceptible of deep and tender feeling.

Though not decidedly pious, that is, never having experienced the change of heart he had been taught to think necessary to constitute him a Christian believer, his faith was yet strong in the Divine Being, as a God of providence and grace; and even then to his youthful mind, these escapes from impending death, seemed as special interpositions of that Power.

Early in the spring of 1796, a company of men on their way to the tract which now constitutes the township of Stukely, stopped at the house of young Mr. Lawrence in West Shefford, where some of the party

fell ill of the measles, to which they had been somewhere previously exposed. The disease was thus communicated to the family; the mother and two of the children being attacked at the same time, had become extremely ill.

No medical assistance, or proper remedies, could be had in the place; and at this time accident, or rather Providence, brought Henry to his brother's house; who, on finding the situation of affairs, spent the night in watching with the sick; when he had ample time and reason to think of the young wife and mother who lay in a suffering and apparently dying state. Feeling it impossible to give the sick ones anything like proper attention, he longed for the presence of his own mother. He had great confidence in her as a nurse; knew that experience had given her a great deal of practical knowledge respecting the treatment of diseases, and felt that her skill and fortitude were imperatively called for. But how to get her there was now the question. In thinking the matter over during the night, as he saw that it seemed only proper skill and attention that were required, he resolved to make the effort to save those apparently marked for death, and, with the morning dawn, started for home.

But the snow was fast melting, and the river much swollen and free from ice, presented a seemingly impassable barrier to an elderly fleshy woman like his mother, even if she should reach it.

For the purpose of forming a temporary crossing,

some one living near had felled a tree from either side, so that the tops by coming together might form a sort of bridge, on which persons, who wished, might pass; but the strength of the current was such that the tops, instead of clinging together, as it was supposed they would, were turned down from either side in a slanting direction, so that a space several feet in width, which was the deepest channel, remained perfectly open. To remedy this, two poles or timbers, some ten or twelve feet in length, were securely laid across from the limbs of one tree to those of the other, on which frail bridge several had risked themselves, and passed safely. It was here that Henry had crossed in coming to his brother's house; this was his way back, and only by this, could his mother come to the help of the sufferers.

Full of determination to do what he could, he hastened home, and giving his mother to understand the necessities of the case, enlisted her warmest sympathies; but the distance of six miles, the state of the road, and the high river, were between her and the sick ones.

He told his mother, how he had crossed, and in his anxiety that she should make the attempt to get to those whose lives, he thought, depended on it, persuaded her to make the trial; so confiding in him, and taking such medicines and restoratives as she thought would be needed, they started on foot, and, walking the whole six miles through melting snow,

came to the river where things remained as in the morning. Without doubt or question, she allowed him to lead her on to the frail structure, and when coming to the timbers that connected the trees, gave him both hands, and took the piece that appeared highest above the water, but their added weight so bent the branches supporting the timbers that when in the middle, directly over the seething, boiling current, they sunk ankle-deep in the water which seemed waiting to carry them to swift destruction. Each movement was made slowly and with the utmost precision, for both saw that one false step was certain death.

The young man's nerves had been strung up to such a pitch of intensity, at the thought of the danger into which he had brought one so dear, whose life, so valuable to them all, had been risked at his instance, that though his hand was steady and his voice and step firm, till the peril was past, the moment they were safe over, his firmness of mind and strength of body failed together, and he sunk to the ground trembling, faint and weak as a frightened child. The watching of the previous night, the fatigue of the day, the anxiety felt for his sick friends, but most of all his excitement at thought of the danger into which he had brought his mother, were too much for his firmness, and the reaction took place on the instant.

As related to the principal object of these exciting efforts,—the sick woman to whose relief they had come—it was too late; she was past help; and Mrs.

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Lawrence had only the melancholy satisfaction of soothing her dying hours by the many little attentions which her extensive experience with the sick and dying so well fitted her to give. She closed the eyes of her daughter-in-law, and remained at the house of her son until the mother was buried, and the children were out of danger; when she returned to her own habitation, crossing the river in a canoe, however, by this time provided.

CHAPTER V.

There had been a general advance in all the departments of work connected with the farm of our friends;—the buildings had been improved, more land cleared and larger crops of grain and vegetables put into the ground—when, in the commencement of the autumn of 1796, Mr. Silas Knowlton, of Newfane, Vt., came to Shefford on his way to the tract now forming the township of Stukely Henry, whose experience as a backwoodsman as well as his acquaintance with the localities around, and whose native perseverance and energy of character fitted him for such work, was employed to bush out a road, and mark trees to lead the way; when, armed with compass, axe, and the invariable fire materials, he engaged in an enterprise, which in its results proved one of the most important undertakings of his life; being nothing less than the commencement of a train of circumstances through which himself and brother next younger became Associates of the township of Stukely. Though they were still minors, the difficulty was evaded by an elder brother entering into bonds for the faithful performance of conditions required. Mr. Knowlton made some pre-

parations for a residence, and returned for his family.*

As the country near and around Lake Memphremagog became settled, the people were aroused to the importance of having a more direct line of communication with Montreal, and made advances towards opening a road through to Shefford, the inhabitants of which place determined to do their part in effecting the work; which was accomplished principally by voluntary contributions of time and labor. Before winter a road was cut through to St. Pie, so that when the snow fell and the swamps were frozen over, ox-teams could pass to the river; from whence to Yamaska (now St. Hyacinthe) a distance of twelve miles, they went on the ice. But of course this was only a winter road; the swamps could be made passable in summer only by a considerable outlay of time and means, so that those going this way at that season could only, as hitherto, pass on foot. Some, as in every new community, would get discouraged, lacking the energy and perseverance necessary to carry out successfully the work entered upon; yet, notwithstanding all embarrassments and

* It is related that on Mr. Knowlton's return to Stukely with his family, they were accompanied by a Mr. Whitney, his wife and infant daughter; and that as they neared the line of division between the two townships, a playful dispute arose between the two women as to which should have the honor of being the first white female who entered Stukely; when Mr. Whitney who had heard what was said, suddenly caught the child and running over the line, declared the question settled.

hindrances, here as in other places, the resolute, enterprising and industrious did improve their circumstances and gather about them the comforts of life.

The opening of even a winter road was an era in the history of these townships, as, from their isolated position in respect to communication with market towns, much embarrassment and difficulty was experienced; now, however, there was a way of getting to market at least once in the year.

Though the brothers Henry and Erastus Lawrence had been admitted to the fraternity of Associates, and had made improvements on their places which adjoined in Stukely, doing sufficient on the premises of each to fulfil the letter of the conditions required, both remained much of the time with their parents, and gave particular attention to the cultivation of a place which was still their home "*par excellence*." The younger brother was becoming an efficient helper; so that, under their united efforts, the homestead was improving in extent of ground cultivated, and in the substantial comforts and conveniences of life.

In January, 1797, after the winter had thoroughly set in, the subject of breaking out the new road through the woods to the French settlements was agitated among the inhabitants, and a turn out of three men with cattle and sleds, on which were conveyed provisions for the men and hay for the beasts, sufficient to last them several days, started from the house of Mr. Lawrence early in the morning, and returned the evening of the

fourth day ; the intervening nights having been passed after the usual manner in the woods, while the four days were occupied in work. Granby river was crossed near the present site of that village, though no house then marked the spot ; and passing through what is now Abbotsford, they reached the Black river at Upper St. Pie, whence they returned without having seen one single human being, except themselves.

The most difficult part of the work was the passage of the great swamp in Granby, half a mile in width ; which obstacle was not finally overcome without much patient effort on the part of the men, and many hard struggles of the poor beasts. At times the cattle would break through the ice, and sink into mud, from which it would have been impossible to extricate them but by the united efforts of the men, who, when occasion made it necessary, cut poles to pry them out. They were often obliged to cover the way with bushes and branches cut for the purpose, before daring to venture on with their cattle ; the depth of water and mud making such precaution necessary.

Rivers and small streams were frozen sufficiently to be passable ; but, owing to the shelter of heavy trees, or the great depth of snow, or the peculiar nature of the soil, or perhaps from all these causes combined, —the ice in the swamp was less firm. Those acquainted with swampy lands will readily understand the difficulty of the work undertaken and accomplished.

By such effort was the first passage to the river ef-

fectured through all intervening obstacles, and owing to the extreme cold, the whole way was sufficiently frozen for their safe return, after the above named absence of four days and three nights.

Though this was but a winter road, and the way was, to all intents and purposes, closed to all but foot travellers during the greater part of the year, it was still considered an important point gained. This first opening was hailed with joy, and followed up by people living along the whole line, who were but too glad to avail themselves of its benefits by going to town. Even this partial success encouraged the more enterprising spirits to greater efforts in overcoming, as far as was practicable, that natural barrier to their future prosperity, which lay in a distance from market.

To be sure, there had been as yet little to sell; but they had a future opening before them, and were anxious to secure facilities corresponding with anticipated necessities; and though gratified with what had been done, they had become all the more desirous of establishing a way by which the metropolis could be reached at any or all seasons of the year.

This was earnestly discussed among the people, and great efforts made to awaken them to the fact, that not alone the few, but all alike were to be benefitted by the work. Deputations from settlements near Lake Memphremagog came among them to raise means by subscription, for bridging streams and constructing causeways over swamps otherwise impassable. Some hesitated, while looking at the matter only through the

narrow telescope of self, with characteristic unwillingness to engage in any enterprise where themselves were not to be the most expressly benefitted; while some were in fact too poor to aid in the project; but the greater part were wise enough to see their own true interests in the matter; and, as the result of the effort, sufficient money and labour were promised to justify the undertaking. In September, 1797, the work was commenced, the streams bridged and causeways constructed; that over the great swamp in Granby, cost one dollar per rod,—in all one hundred and seventy dollars; and the work was persevered in, so that in October, ox-sleds could pass to the river at St. Pie.

It seems that a natural difficulty of communication at first existed between the eastern and western sections of the township of Bolton, so that for some time after settlements were formed in either part, it was only by a long and circuitous way that people could get from the one to the other; though the interests of the settlers were in a great measure identical, some of them having claims in both sections of the township. A hunter of the name of Frizzle, while following his "spotted lines," (the line of marked trees by which he was guided to his traps), made the discovery that there was a natural opening or notch through the mountain, where a road might be made to connect the settlements, already bound to each other by a community of interests. After an examination, the step was decided upon, and a road laid out to

connect, by way of Brome and West Shefford, with that already open to Yamaska. A company of four men, including our informant, were busied twenty-four days in cutting and clearing a road, building bridges, &c., passing most of the nights in the woods, hunter fashion. Being without a compass, the party once got lost, and night overtook them on the edge of a beaver meadow, on which the hay had been cut the previous summer. Knowing that there must be some "spotted line" emerging from this place, they camped for the night as usual; and, in the morning light, commenced search for a way of egress which was soon found leading them out into Brome. Thus was opened the first winter road from Bolton to Montreal by way of Shefford and Yamaska.

It is related that during the first winter after this, the snow fell to such a depth that the road was blocked up, so that it was impossible to pass with cattle; and when the people wanted bread, there was no other way to get it, than for one of the settlers to take a sack of the corn they had raised, swing it on his back, and on snow-shoes carry it to the nearest mill; and, as the whole settlement was in the same predicament, each man had to take his turn; in which way they lived till the snow melted and sleds could pass. It was no uncommon thing for the poorer class of settlers to travel on foot, twenty, thirty, or even forty miles, loaded with grain or other necessaries for their destitute families.

CHAPTER VI.

As these early inhabitants were necessarily their own architects, they were often their own cabinet-makers ; and, as "necessity is the mother of invention," who knows what improvements were brought to light through the promptings of this same stern power ?

Some of our readers may feel a little curiosity respecting the resorts to which our grandmothers were driven for some of the most common household conveniences ; we therefore devote a chapter to notices of this kind, though the articles herein described are now entirely out of use.

The "catamount bedstead" was once spoken of in the writer's presence, when enquiries as to its construction drew forth the following description : First, poles were cut—two of necessary length for the sides, and two for the ends ; these were stripped of their bark, and the ends inserted in holes bored for the purpose in four posts of equal height : this composed the frame. Then elm bark was stripped into proper widths, to be woven together after the manner of the old-fashioned chair seat, when this piece of furniture was ready for use.

It was usually the case that after the first or second

year of labour bestowed in clearing up a farm, sufficient grain was raised for home consumption, but the difficulty lay in getting it ground, as there were few mills in the country ; none in fact nearer the residence of Mr Lawrence than St. Armand, a distance of thirty miles. Necessity now brought into requisition what was probably an invention of the Indians, (and was one of the few primitive arts in use among them), as necessary to convert their corn into food ; otherwise there was no method except that known as hulling. No doubt improvements have been made in both these ways. The "plumping mill," which was now brought into very general use by settlers living at a distance from grinding mills, was made of a log some fourteen inches in diameter, standing on one end, while in the other was formed a cavity after the fashion of a salt mortar. The pestle was of wood, about two and a half feet in length, and some five or six inches in thickness, rounded at the bottom, the middle made of convenient size for the hand, and fastened at the top to a spring pole, so as after each stroke to rebound for another. Putting about a quart of corn into the mortar at a time, the pestle was applied ; and when the grain was sufficiently pounded, the sieve was brought into use to separate the coarse and fine meal ; the former being used for the dish called "hominy" by the Indians, while the other could be mixed with stewed pumpkins and made into an excellent coarse bread, or used in various other ways known to housekeepers in this country.

Whether the use of the "plumping mill" was an occupation for either the male or female branch of the family, is uncertain, though the impression is that the labor was shared between them.

For some time after Mr. Nicholas Austin, the original grantee and first settler of the township of Bolton, came into the country, there was no mill or place where flour could be obtained, nearer than Danville, Vt., more than forty miles distant. The first year he had made an extensive clearing and raised a large crop of corn, but it was of little use without a market, except so much of it as was needed for themselves; and this had to be prepared by the "plumping mill," till Mr. Austin procured something like a large coffee mill, which, when propelled by water from a small brook near his residence, by being kept constantly going, would grind corn at the rate of six bushels in twenty-four hours; and this mill, with a wire sieve, brought with great pains from Quebec, completed the accommodations of the kind, by which that community was for some time supplied with breadstuff.

Another want seriously felt was that of leather; this leading the people, from motives of economy as well as necessity, to tan the hides of such animals as died or were killed; and the results of their efforts to supply themselves with the needed article, were both satisfactory and encouraging.

In the winter of 1796, Henry, and a Mr. Lewis, a neighbor, while on a hunting excursion, killed a large

fat female moose, the flesh of which, when dressed, weighed about six hundred pounds. This feat was not unattended with danger to the hunters, as, on discovering them, the animal rushed furiously towards them, while their guns were discharged, and would probably have done them some serious or fatal injury, had not their dogs held her at bay till they could re-load their pieces, when she was dispatched and they were relieved from their imminent peril. The skin of this creature was turned into good moccasin leather, the tallow was useful for candles, and the meat, which when salted is much like corned beef, helped out their supplies.

Many of us yet remember when only small, rude, wooden troughs were used in which to catch the sap as it fell from the maple tree; when it was gathered in buckets and boiled down into syrup in old-fashioned iron kettles. Sugar making, aside from the taste of the article produced, is not a particularly sweet or agreeable employment, and if any one has been disposed to consider it as such, a very short experience of sap-gathering, or eyes blinded by smoke, soon takes away all romantic interest in the work. In former days, much more severe and unpleasant labor was required for this work than now with our improved facilities; and there is no good reason why the article manufactured should not be greatly superior in quality to what was then made. Seasons varied then as now in the quantity as well as quality of sugar. The operations

gone through in this work are too well understood throughout the country to need description, as maple sugar is one of our principal home productions.

The different kinds of grass and other seeds were brought in by the early settlers; and as land was cleared and cultivated, hay was thus provided for domestic animals, the different species of which, with the fowls now common in the country, have kept pace in numbers with the increasing wants of the people.

Most of the clothing worn by the early settlers, both male and female, was, of necessity, of home manufacture, made by the industrious hands of our grandmothers, mothers and aunts; for this branch of domestic industry belonged exclusively to the female department of the family. To them a practical knowledge of the use of the hand-card, distaff, wheel, and hand-loom, was indispensable; it being the essential part of their education, and often presenting room for the exercise of a laudable emulation; as, for instance, who should spin and weave the finest and make the whitest piece of linen; who should take the preference in flannel making, in knitting socks or mittens, or in making bed covering; or who should excel in cookery or other housekeeping qualifications; for to the domestic sphere and the care of the sick, were their faculties and energies limited.

They had none of the resources for religious or intellectual improvement which we find so abundant; and when we compare the then existing dearth of such cultivation with the advantages lying within our reach,

ought not our grateful hearts to rise in a hymn of thanksgiving that "the lines have fallen to us in pleasant places;" and at the same time to feel humbled that we no better appreciate our exalted privileges or profit by them. Even years passed before the uniform establishment of schools; while that most miserably injudicious practice of accounting the Sabbath a day of relaxation and amusement, became deplorably prevalent; or as, was too frequently the case, it was spent in reviewing the labors of the past and laying out work for the coming week, or in going on business errands in order to save time; customs which even now are lamentably common among a certain class in all communities of nominal Christians. In those times and places there was apparent excuse for much of this; religious worship was a thing almost unknown, and it is hardly a matter of wonder that even those who had been subjected to better home influences, should gradually adopt prevailing usages; such creatures of habit are we, and so readily and insensibly do we become assimilated to the views, feelings and practices of those with whom we are in frequent intercourse. That there exists in human nature an affinity to evil, one manifestation of which is a strong inclination to indulgence in selfish ease, is in nothing more clearly shown than in this very readiness to accommodate ourselves to the practices that may be prevalent in communities where we are thrown. No matter though the "still small voice" interposes its whispered warnings of un-

seen dangers, or reason aided, perhaps by the remembered teachings and examples of friends of earlier years, may raise a feeble barrier in the downward way ; in very many cases the propensity to self-indulgence is stronger than are conscientious scruples ; reason is impotent, while friendly remonstrance and example seem thrown away.

The indifference existing in the minds of so many respecting the nature and origin of the Holy Sabbath, the voluntary blindness to the benefits arising from its proper observance, and the willing ignorance of the duties and responsibilities it imposes, which are so lamentably prevalent, all owe their existence to this sad truth.

CHAPTER VII.

On the coming of Mr. Silas Knowlton to Stukely, the way seemed open for others; and as the house of Mr. Lawrence of Shefford, was a sort of resting-place for these wayfarers, frequent calls were made for Henry's services as guide or pilot through these wilds; an employment his peculiar fitness for which has been spoken of. Combined with this fitness, were a quickness of perception, a facility of temper, a fertility of resource, and a readiness of action, joined to a spice of romantic interest in these adventures.

We must not omit mention of a peculiar case of hardship that occurred on the very earliest of these journeys. Two gentlemen from among the proposed Associates, (the above named Mr. Knowlton, and a Mr. Stevens of Newfane, Vt.), had come on to make selections of land, and Mr. Lawrence's house, being nearest to the locality they wished to visit, was their stopping-place, while Henry was to be their guide. This was in no way a pleasurable undertaking, for as yet there was nothing to direct them, the surveyors of the Shefford line having left a few signs, which if followed would have led the travellers astray from the point aimed at.

They started accordingly, with the indispensable compass to guide them, the useful axe to mark the trees, the necessary sack of provision for three days, beside which were fire materials ; and last, though not least, a gun and ammunition, taken not only as a means of protection against wild animals, but to vary the monotony of their weary tramp, by shooting whatever game they chanced to meet.

In addition to the fatigues of such an excursion to such as were all unused to them, through such a way and with such encumbrances, they suffered excessive annoyance from the swarms of venomous insects with which these woods were then infested ; each of the strangers, but more particularly Mr. Stevens, being so bitten by them that his face and neck were swollen and disfigured to a surprising degree. Such was the effect on him, that on returning to the house of Mr. Lawrence, he was ill for a week, and for a time nearly blind.

The others suffered somewhat, but not so severely.

At night the smoke of their campfires kept away the intruders, but, while walking or sitting without such protection, they were continually tormented.

The flies, which were so troublesome to travellers in these woods, were, first, the moosefly, an insect considerably larger than the honey bee and having a sting so acute that horses were not only restive, but would rear, plunge and sometimes become entirely unmanageable when bitten by them ; and in the heat of the day, during the reign of these short-lived but pestiferous insects,

people were often obliged to keep their cattle shut up in dark stables. For the space of a month or so, generally comprising the last weeks in June and the first in July, most of the travelling was done early in the morning or late in the day to avoid as much as was possible this annoyance. They were called mooseflies, from their being particularly obnoxious to that creature; yet they were likewise dreaded by all animals, their sting being like that of the wasp, though the pain is not so lasting. They seemed to choose certain trees and shrubs on the leaves of which to deposit their egg, which was covered by a frothy substance resembling spittle, when it rapidly hatched and, as speedily going through its several stages of transformation, came out a perfect, full-grown moose-fly, the torment alike of man and beast. But their reign as flies was soon over; and, unless they took other form and guise, we know not "whither they went or whence they came," as in their having in a great measure disappeared from their old haunts, they seem to have followed in the wake of some plagues of a "larger growth," with which this country was some time infested; so that comparatively few of them are found at the present day.

Then there was a small black fly, the bite of which, though not so painful at first, was equally and perhaps more poisonous than the other. This insect is still common in some localities at certain seasons; and then there was the mosquito, which, during warm weather, is

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too common and annoying an occupant of woods and shades to need a more lengthy notice.

Late in the summer of 1796,* a party of fourteen persons, principally from the vicinities of Brattleborough and Newfane, Vt., came on to make selections in Stukely. Several of these were young men, the sons of wealthy parents, entirely unaccustomed to the life they were preparing to enter upon, and as unfitted by habit and education as they well could be.

As a matter of course, Mr. Lawrence's house was their stopping place; from whence, under the guidance of Henry, and with the usual preparations, to which were added an extra axe and gun, a camp-kettle and larger quantities of provisions, they started a merry company, each bearing his share of the burdens.

As a protection from the troublesome insects, several among the party carried snudges either of dry touch-wood, of an excrescence taken from the trunks of trees growing in damp soils, or of several pieces of cedar bark closely bound together; either of which retains fire and emits smoke without kindling into a blaze.

The young men of the party were determined on having a good time, and entered into the work with a pleasure that showed them intent on the enjoyment of what was to them a novelty.

* The discrepancy of dates apparent between the actual commencement of settlements in Stukely, and the granting of the warrant of Survey for that Township, can only be accounted for on the supposition that settlements were made in advance of the actual grant and in certain prospect of it.

Partridges* were numerous, and during the first day several of these birds were killed by the young sportsmen, some of whom seemed better fitted for this work than that for which they had come thus far; not even knowing how to prepare their supper after they had killed it.

Among eatables carried on these occasions, the "staff of life" was the principal, with sometimes salt meat, salt, or other seasoning articles. This time they had taken a quantity of salt beef which it was designed should help to season the game they expected to find plenty, and on which lay their principal dependence in the eating line. The first night they encamped by a brook of clear running water; and while some were

* The partridge, like the hen, raises broods, and if her young are disturbed, will fight fiercely and desperately, often falling a victim to her maternal instincts; while the young upon the first warning note, disappear in an incredibly short space of time; finding refuge in the smallest and most unthought of hiding places. Their instincts are so keen, and the signal of danger is so readily understood and obeyed, that from the first they are as perfectly still as if hardly daring to breathe. In winter they live upon the buds of trees, principally the birch and maple, and in very severe weather often dive into deep soft snow for protection from cold. People have been much surprised at seeing them drop thus suddenly without other intimation of their being near; but when the surface is too hard for them to penetrate, they are forced to find shelter from the piercing blast beside logs or on the thickest branches of trees where they remain at night. Their eggs are white, a little smaller than those of the hen, and they lay twelve or fifteen, in some dark place, as far out of sight and sound as possible. In rearing young, their habits are in many respects similar to those of the hen.

busied in preparing wood, making fire, collecting hemlock boughs for their bed, &c., others, including the more experienced of the party, went to work about the supper. Perhaps the fowls were not prepared after the most approved culinary methods, as five or six of them were cooked with a large piece of beef: but "hunger is the best sauce;" and many a joke was cracked and laugh indulged by the merry boys, who each boasted his share in the adventures they should have to relate on their return home; the natural exuberance of animal spirits seeming heightened by what was to them a novel experience indeed.

The camp-kettle used was either of brass or tin; of larger or smaller size as required, and was often hung on the end of a stick driven obliquely into the ground, with a notch cut on the projecting end to keep the bale of the vessel from slipping; but sometimes the stick was fastened into some upright tree or stump, or hung over the fire on a pole supported at either end by posts driven into the ground. Having with them a plan of the projected township divided into ranges and lots, the party, before leaving Shefford, had made an agreement among themselves that to prevent differences, arising from choosing the same lots, each should take his choice before starting; which was done by reference to the plan, and the decisions were made in accordance.

They were influenced in this by the fact that in some parts, and especially the localities with which

they were most intimately acquainted, the best land is found on the margin of the streams.

But such a rule was by no means applicable in this case ; and they soon found how grievously they had been mistaken in taking this course ; most of the land they had selected, lying in dense and inaccessible swamps. So entirely were they disappointed, that, after looking up the lots they had chosen in pursuance of this plan, they directed their guide to lead them to a better tract, only two of them deciding to abide by the agreement. Several of them were either discouraged by the appearance of the country, and their experiences during this trip, or deterred by different causes from making settlement, and sold their claims to other parties.

This latter practice, which was followed in a greater or less degree in all the Townships, was a prolific source of strife and litigation ; there being, even at this remote day, suits pending in consequence, which seems to have been one of the unavoidable evils resulting from the system pursued in granting the lands. How these suits will yet be settled, remains to be seen.

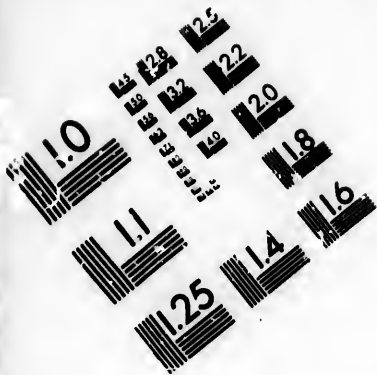
Among the settlers who subsequently came to Stukely, were four brothers of the name of Knowlton, viz., Ezekiel, Levi, Lyman, and Asaph, cousins of Mr. Silas Knowlton, the first inhabitant of the Township. They came of an ancestry of high social standing in Southern Vermont ; and from them have sprung a numerous and very respectable connexion, now scattered in different sections.

CHAPTER VIII.

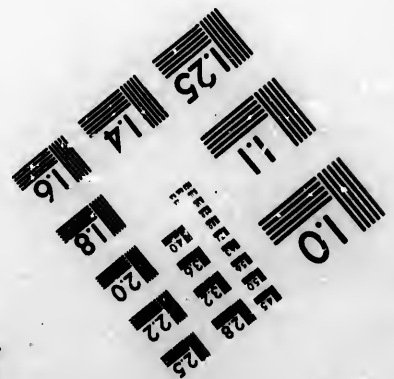
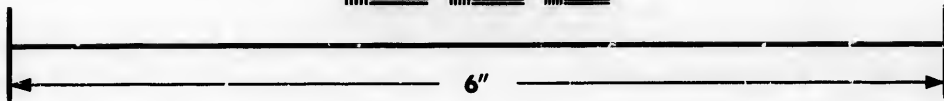
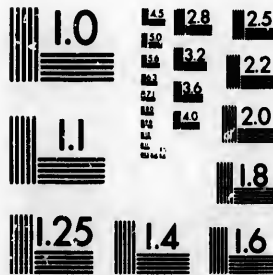
For many years, pot and pearl ashes were the staple articles with which to make remittances in the way of trade, and were indeed the principal products which could be spared from the country, where little comparatively was raised, and, for a time, a non-producing population was fast multiplying.

The first considerable effort made at marketing, by our friends, was when Henry, with Mr. Silas Knowlton, of Stukely, started for Montreal with each two barrels of potash, which, as it was in the days of the famous "embargo," then commanded a high price. As was usually the case, two yokes of cattle were necessary for each sled, and in this manner their load was taken through Granby, (at which place and at Yamaska mountain there were small beginnings of settlements) to the river at a point where a ferry had been established; when the sleds were left and the loads transferred to a scow on which they were taken six miles to the Montreal road; thence taken by hired carters to the St. Lawrence river at Longueuil; then crossed in a bateau, and from the landing carried by truckmen to the inspection office, where, after being inspected, the potash was ready for sale.





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Notwithstanding the trouble and expense of their journey, they realized a very considerable profit, having each received one hundred dollars for his load. Part of this money was laid out for a return cargo of home necessaries, which was taken, by the same means, the same route, though in reversed order ; when, after an absence of eighteen days, and an expense of twenty dollars each, the travellers once more reached their homes.

The usual time occupied on this journey, during good summer weather, was ten or twelve days ; but the above described trip was made late in the fall when the days were very short.

There were times during the rainy season, that, while passing through some low places on the Granby road, the sleds were entirely covered with water, so that it seemed as if the barrels were swimming along the surface.

Another very serious difficulty that attended the transportation of loading to Montreal at that early day, arose from the imperfect means then in use, of crossing the rivers Chambly and St. Lawrence. Open scows were invariably used on the former, while batteaux were necessary on the latter ; the greater width and depth of the river and consequent strength of the current and danger from the wind, requiring differently constructed boats. Each was provided with both oars and setting poles ; the latter being used near the shores and in more shallow water ; the former in greater depth and stronger current.

The scow was a large flat boat formed of planks with sides some fifteen or eighteen inches high ; the ends being a continuation of the boat rising gradually above the water, first that it might pass the more readily over the surface, and likewise to facilitate the embarkation and debarkation, by being brought up to the embankment from which carriages or whatever was to be taken over, could gradually descend to the part of the vessel necessary.

Large teams could thus be ferried across without detaching the horses, in case the animals were quiet and manageable ; but when otherwise, much trouble was often caused, and great care and pains were necessary to effect a safe passage.

Bateaux, which were necessary on the St. Lawrence, were more in the form of a canoe, being curved towards the ends, so as to present nearly a point to the water ; and were often twenty-five or thirty feet in length, by seven or eight feet in width at the centre ; made of ship-timber covered with boards and planks.

They were brought up to the shore against a projection or wharf, and strongly fastened, when planks were placed so as to form a sort of bridge gradually descending inward, over which animals were led singly and securely fastened ; when others, or whatever was to comprise the cargo, were brought on in the same manner. Strong cables were provided in case animals should become unruly, when they were fastened to the timbers of the sides which were three or more feet

high. At times, when droves of cattle or loads of hay made it necessary, two bateaux were strongly bound together so as to prevent rocking; when quite a number of cattle or a large body of freight could be crossed to the wharf opposite, from which point loading could be taken by carters to the city, or the bateaux could be towed up a distance of three miles; which was accomplished by several hands taking the cable and drawing up along the shore, while others remained on board, and with setting poles kept the boats at floating distance from the bank. On returning, the current favored descent to the place of crossing, when the journey homeward was simply a reversed repetition.

The introduction of the horse-boat was considered an era in the history of ferries in this country, and they were established both on the St. Lawrence river, and subsequently on the Chambly basin (an expansion of the river at the time bearing that name); but it was soon ascertained that, during the prevalence of high winds, they were little better than the old method of crossing; as before, travellers being obliged to wait till the storm should abate, before the boatmen dared venture out on the waters.

This was all along a serious inconvenience, as whole days, and sometimes several days, had to be spent in waiting for a change of weather, no matter how urgent business might be: but there was no remedy. However, on the application of steam to purposes of navigation generally, it altogether superseded the horse-boat in

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use so many years on the St. Lawrence ; and that at Chambly was done away with by the erection of a convenient and elegant bridge between the former ferries that crossed the river in the vicinity of that place.

About the year 1804, Henry, for the purpose of assisting his brother Samuel, who was about building mills at West Shefford, started on a tour to Westford, Vt., to procure the necessary irons ; and, as had been beforehand arranged, he drove out cattle for payment, and a yoke of oxen with which to draw in the machinery. There he found himself without sled or other vehicle for use, and was obliged to resort to his wits to invent means of transporting the heavy load ; when his ingenuity, being thus put to the test, suggested the making of a dray, as they were then called, which was nothing other than a long timber split at one end, pried open, and fastened by inserting a short beam crosswise between the parts ; when eight hundred pounds of iron castings were bound on it by heavy chains. This end trailed on the ground, while the other end was fastened into the yoke on the necks of the sturdy beasts, and drawn by them over rough roads and through rapid streams to Sheldon, Vt., where the young man obtained a pair of large heavy cart wheels, on which he fastened the dray, load and all, so as to balance, and then proceeded on his way. There was a ferry over the Missisquoi river, but all the other streams had to be forded. At St. Armand he took the then only route to Shefford through Dunham and Farnham ; but the

roads were so rough and the load so heavy that the axle-tree of his cart gave way three times, and was ready for the fourth break-down on arriving at his destination. With the aid of axe and auger with which he was provided, and a piece of the hard timber which grew so plentifully by the way, he repaired the damage each time.

The clatter of the iron load, as the cart rolled over stones, logs, and other obstructions, aroused the people as it passed along the line of road, attracting considerable attention from being the first pair of wheels that had penetrated by that route so far into the interior of the country. As a matter of course, a good deal of surprise and astonishment, if not admiration, was excited at the appearance of the strange "contrivance;" and, on approaching the residence of Mr. Gale, in Farnham, the unusual and unaccountable noise which, with its echoes, could be heard, sometime before the lumbering ox-cart appeared in sight, that gentleman became so alarmed and excited that he went out in haste to look up the cause of such a horrid din which seemed to grow louder and come nearer. Under the impression that something unlawful and wrong must be going on, he took the direction from which the sound seemed to proceed, and soon came in sight of the noisy cart with its clattering load; when, after satisfying himself of the cause and nature of the sounds which had so disturbed him, he burst into a hearty laugh; and, going back toward the house, called out, "Whe-e-Is,

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here is a load on whe-e-ls ! more of a sight than to see a coach-and-six in England !” and summoned all the inmates of the house, not excepting the ladies, to see the novel spectacle. No sooner had he been given to understand the destination of the loaded vehicle, and the object in view, as connected with improvements going on so near, and contributing so directly and greatly to the convenience of a community in which he felt a special interest, than he gave his hearty approval of the work in progress, and commended the ingenuity and perseverance with which it had been carried on.

CHAPTER IX.

At the time of which we write, wild animals were numerous and destructive. Some few panthers were seen and heard in different sections, and one was killed in Bolton in the following manner:—

A settler, while passing through a piece of woods in broad day-light, was startled by the appearance of a strange track in the snow, and, being curious to discover to what it belonged, followed it some little distance; when, seeing that it must have been made by some formidable creature, and thinking of himself alone and unarmed, he turned and took his way home. Soon after, a neighbor, who had come the same way on horseback, rode up in great haste (himself in high excitement, and his horse covered with sweat), saying that he had seen a panther in the woods through which he had just passed, and pointing out the exact place in which the animal had hidden himself, which was in fact in the immediate vicinity of the tracks seen by the other. While they were thus speaking and consulting together, another neighbor, known as a bold, resolute man, came up from the other way, and, on hearing their account of the matter, fearlessly started on to examine for himself; thinking probably that the fears of his

informants had magnified the danger. On coming to the place pointed out, which was a cavity formed by the roots of a prostrate tree, he saw a veritable panther, and was rash enough to get a pole and daringly drive him from his hiding place ; when, without other demonstrations of hostility than bristling up and growling a little, he gave a bound off from the roadside into the woods. Returning home, the adventurous man got help ; and, with guns, dogs, and other preparations for a hunt, started in pursuit. Before going far they came upon the creature, when, taking aim between the eyes, the hunter shot and killed him at once. Whether the monster was sick or had been hurt, or was satiated with food, can only be conjectured ; but that some such thing must have operated to stupify him, is evident. On measuring the length of his first leap when driven from the cave, it was found to be twenty-two and a half feet, after which he had gone but about one hundred yards before being overtaken and shot.

The length from the tip of the nose to the end of the tail was eleven feet ; and, after being skinned, the limbs appeared of enormous size, showing great muscular strength. It is said that the skin was stuffed and sent to the museum in Boston.

The almost superstitious fear with which this creature is regarded, was never justified, as far as is known in this country, by any attack on man, though sometimes animals would disappear in a most unaccountable manner. If these depredations were committed

by panthers, retreat was made, with their prey, to some remote and inaccessible spot, leaving no trace behind.

Wolves often went out in companies or packs, "seeking what they might devour," when, if any unlucky creature fell in their way, it was sure to be destroyed; but when single they were not considered particularly formidable, except to sheep and small animals.

To those persons who camped in the woods at night, fire was considered a protection, it being thought that this creature has an instinctive dread of that element.

At a time when Henry Lawrence was called upon to watch with a sick neighbor, having to pass through woods nearly a mile, he started about sunset, but before proceeding far from the clearing, heard the howl of a wolf, as he supposed, some twenty rods distant, and immediately an answering howl from the other side of the path. Alarmed he took to his heels, and in a very short time reached his destination, no wolf having overtaken him. On his return, however, in the morning, he found, from tracks in the wet grounds, that two wolves had followed him from the place of their coming together through to the clearing. What instinct gave these creatures knowledge of his presence in the woods, or what "special telegram" was communicated back and forth in the howls that so alarmed him, is not easy for us to say.

Some time after the same person had settled in

Stukely, and had quite a stock of cattle, the calves were placed in an enclosure but a short distance from the buildings, while the larger animals were in a pasture still farther off. About midnight he was roused from a sound sleep by the peculiar bellow which he at once knew came from the calf pasture, and to be caused by some sudden attack, for the sound was one of extreme terror; when, without waiting for clothes, light, or even to unbolt the door, he raised the window, dashed out, and in an instant was flying rather than running to the rescue; and, at the same time yelling at the top of his voice, in hope of frightening the enemy. The large cattle had heard the first alarm, and, as if instinctively knowing the danger and its cause, with answering bellows started for the scene, clearing fences and all intervening obstacles. The sounds of terror and distress continued till the owner came near, still hallooing with all his might, when the discomfited foe, frightened by the unearthly sounds which appeared to be coming from all quarters, slunk away in the dark, leaving his murderous work hardly begun. On bringing a light, it was found that one of the largest and finest calves had been seized by two wolves, for there were teeth-marks in both its flanks; but its violent struggles with the terror inspired by such an uproar, made cowards of the attacking party. The track of two wolves were seen in the day-light.

Another settler, on going to mill, and being obliged to wait for his grist till late in the day, was warned

of the danger of attempting at that late hour to pass through a piece of woods, known to be infested with wolves ; but, knowing the anxiety and terror his family would feel at such a prolonged absence, he determined to run the risk. Soon after entering the wood, he saw tracks and heard howls ; and, on coming to a place where some men had been employed in getting out timber, he seized a hand-spike that lay on the ground, and loosened the load on his back that he might throw it off in case of attack. The howls came nearer ; when, quickening his pace and resolutely brandishing his weapon without turning back to count his pursuers, yet with no very comfortable feelings he kept on his way till coming to a clearing, when they slunk away.

One of his neighbors, on coming through the same woods with a quantity of cod-fish, of which it is said that wolves are extremely fond, was followed by them ; and, having no means of defence, when they came too near, tore off a piece of fish which he threw among them, running on while they quarrelled for the prize ; and, when overtaken again, threw them another piece : thus on till he had gained a clearing, when they fell back.

A farmer in Stukely had confined his cattle and sheep as was customary in the barn yard, when one evening the family were alarmed by an unusual clang of the cowbells then in common use. The men went out directly to ascertain the cause of disturbance, when, by the light of the moon, they saw a large wolf

in the yard ; but as he seemed in no haste to attack any creature, merely driving the sheep from side to side as if in diversion, or what is more probable with an eye to a fat choice, while one of the men returned to get the gun, the other waited to watch the movements of his wolfship. The gun was brought, but could not be got off ; and the animal, getting warned of danger, either through his sense of smell or the click of the gun, left without doing any mischief.

A young man of the same place had set several traps, and was in the habit of spending his Sabbaths in attending to them, against the advice and remonstrances of his widowed mother, who felt anxious that he should pay a better respect to the sacred day.

One Sabbath morning he started as usual for his Sunday work, taking with him a piece of roasted meat which trappers often trail on the ground to entice wild beasts to their death. It seems that he was in the act of doing this, when almost before he was aware of it, four hungry, howling demons were coming upon him, alone and defenceless as he was ; when, getting possession of a club of wood, and planting himself against a tree for protection from attack in the rear, he spent the greater part of the day in warding off the furious attacks of his enemies, and with the strength of desperation fighting for dear life ; no expecting to destroy them, but in hope of worrying them out ; and he did succeed, alone and unarmed as he was, for before nightfall they had left him to return

home safely. When thus in momentary danger of being torn limb from limb, he thought of the mother whose wishes he had been engaged in violating; and whatever regret and repentance he might have felt, produced a permanent effect, for this was the last of his Sunday trapping excursions.

Unlike bears, if wolves, singly or in companies, attack flocks in the field, they destroy all they can catch; but if they break into enclosures, they seem content to kill only what will satisfy their hunger; as if an instinctive cowardice urged them to hurry away.

But it was the black bear that ravaged the corn and wheat fields of the settler, becoming at length so bold as to break into enclosures in which domestic animals had been secured for the night; in which cases the destruction was often terrible, as if their bloody instincts prompted revenge for not being allowed their prey at will; though, when they attacked flocks in the field, one victim usually sufficed.

In consequence these animals became the terror of the country, and many expedients were devised to destroy them;* yet, even at the present day, one occasion-

* They were often taken in large steel traps which were chained to logs that they might not be carried away; but, notwithstanding this precaution, both trap and log have been dragged some distance, the torn up earth, trees bitten and scratched, saplings broken off or torn out by the roots, giving evidence of inconceivable strength and fury. The trap was sometimes fastened with an iron chain to a clog formed of the top of a tree with the branches cut off a few inches from the body, leaving a sort of hook which,

ally strays from his mountain home and finds his way to the back settlements where he usually manages to do a deal of mischief before he can be destroyed. They are not known to have attacked men unless they considered their young in danger, but then would seem to forget themselves, and fight with ferocity and desperation.

In the early settlement of Stukely, a man who was out on a fishing excursion, had with him a gun and small dog, when he fell in with a bear and her two cubs. The dog, not used to hunting bears, at once attacked one of the cubs, when the mother in her rage seized and made short work of him; then, turning to the man, who was vainly attempting to shoot her (the powder having been spoiled by the rain), she raised her forepaws on an intervening log, and was just on the point of taking him in her fast embrace, when on the spur of a moment he took the muzzle of the gun in both

as the chain was attached to the smaller end, would catch in the ground or underwood as it was dragged past, and, if not holding the animal fast, would form a path by which he might be readily traced. It has occurred that when thus taken, the bone of the limb having been broken, so that the foot was held only by skin and muscle, the beast would savagely gnaw these off and escape on three feet, in which case his path was marked with blood. Another kind of trap in common use was formed by placing several pieces of timber in such a way that by a spring, a large log would fall with such force as to crush the animal. This method probably originated with the Indians, as it was in general use among them.

hands, and with the strength of desperation, struck her such a blow on the top of the head, that the hammer of the lock, penetrating the skull and entering the brain, instantly killed the monster. The stock of the gun was shattered, leaving the barrel in his hands ready if necessary for another stroke, but this was not called for.

A neighbor of Mr. Lawrence lost a cow, and on search being made, at a short distance from the farm, the cow was found killed and partly devoured. They set a gun near the carcass, and on the second night it discharged, killing a monstrous bear. This creature was removed, the gun reloaded and set in the same way, and the very next night another bear of smaller size was killed in the same manner.

A farmer, who owned a number of sheep, had enclosed them for safety during night within a stable at one end of the barn which was covered with boards; when, one night, a bear broke through the board wall below a window, and killed six sheep, carrying off two of the number, which were found at a distance partially devoured. A year or so after this, the other end of the same barn had been double boarded for greater security, leaving openings some five or six feet from the ground to admit light and air; when a bear again forced his way through the double wall, killed six sheep, and this time carried off one. It was probably the same animal. Frequently in the day time they made bold incursions; and one might well imagine that they soon

learned whether they were likely to meet with formidable resistance.

A log cabin, newly built, the interstices of which were not filled nor the door hung, was yet occupied by a family, the male members of which were absent, leaving two women and an infant child as its only inmates. Sometime in the afternoon the women were startled by sounds of distress from the pigsty; and, taking the child, both hurried out to learn the cause, when to their dismay they found a bear killing their pig. They immediately retreated before bruin, who dropped his victim and followed them; but they got in and barricaded the door as securely as possible, though had the animal known its weakness, it might not have been so well for them. He continued going round and round, thrusting his nose through the openings and snuffing as if there was a smell of something tempting within. In their terror the women first resorted to the bed; but knowing their door fastenings to be but thin boards, they bethought themselves of the garret as a safer place, and, taking the child, ascended to it. Here they were soon terrified on finding that bruin had climbed upon the shed and was again near them; yet, frightened as they were, it seemed safer than below, and they remained there all night, hoping and fearing alternately. At length morning dawned, and their tormentor was gone,—gone without having done other mischief than killing their pig, though a yoke of oxen were chained a short distance from the cabin, and the

bear had gone around them repeatedly as appeared from the tracks. Whether he was satiated with the blood of the pig, or whether his instincts told him that the beings who fled with shrieks at sight of him, were without defense, and as if in enjoyment of their terror he thus played upon their fears; or whether he really feared to break in upon them or to attack the cattle, those must decide who understand the nature and habits of these animals.

Watch-dogs were considered indispensable; and if the settler failed to keep this faithful sentinel at his post, or to take the necessary precautions to preserve his property, he was pretty sure to pay the penalty of his negligence—a truth which the incident we are about to relate will illustrate.

In dead of night a family were roused from sleep by a piercing squeal as if some one of the occupants of the pigsty was in its last agony; when the man starting up in haste, and finding that by some mistake the dog had been fastened within doors, instantly let him out, at the same time yelling at the top of his voice; then he made hasty work in getting on his clothes, and arming himself with some means of defense, opened the door to go out, and was met by the dog bringing the yet warm and almost quivering half of the body of a pig, that had been torn in two by what afterward appeared to have been two bears that had seized upon the same victim; but in their fright at the sudden warning yell of the man and bark of the dog, one must have

dropped his share of the bloody plunder, and hastily retreated with his more fortunate companion. The tracks of two were plainly seen. It is thus clearly apparent that even the instincts of savage beasts can discern between a threatening and defiant tone of voice, and a scream of terror.

It may be that fire is a safeguard against attack from panthers, wolves and some other animals, but the bear cares nothing for it, as the people had abundant reasons for knowing. Indeed it would sometimes seem as if its instincts were roused to suspect something tempting in the vicinity of a fire ; and their keen sense of smell with the promptings of hunger may have drawn them into such frequent and close proximity to the camp fires of the Indian hunter and early settler, that they lost fear of the element which carries such terror to some of their brethren of the forest. One simple instance will show that if they ever had any fear of it, that fear was lost through frequency of contact.

A settler, whose oat fields had been much damaged by their depredations, collected a pile of dry logs and brushwood in the field and fired the heap, hoping thus to keep off the intruders ; but on going out in the night, to his surprise he saw several young bears climbing a tree which stood near the burning heap, and in the light of the fire, gamboling with the playful activity of kittens. In the morning he found the grain trampled and destroyed for some distance around the tree and in the immediate vicinity of the fire.

Instances similar to those above given might be multiplied, but enough has been said to show that the losses and annoyances suffered from these creatures, were neither few nor small.

The fox, mink and other small creatures were also very numerous and destructive among domestic fowls. Frequently numbers and even entire flocks of turkies, and broods of chickens would disappear in one night, which was a pretty sure sign that reynard had managed to gain access to the roost; and instances of cunning were sometimes exhibited which would have been amusing had they not been so annoying.

In one case a farmer had lost numbers from his flock of geese, and, suspecting the thief to be the occupant of a certain burrow some distance from the scene of depredation, determined to unearth the offender. After removing a little earth, he came upon a number of goose-yokes he knew as being his property; it seeming that reynard had been unable to enter the lower depths of his retreat with his stolen goods thus encumbered; having taken them off and cunningly buried them, lest they should be found and lead to his detection.

Sometimes it would appear that these nightly thefts were committed on a large scale to supply numerous young with food; at others, it would seem that instinct led them to improve opportunity to kill all in their reach, and bury what they could not eat, as a provision against future want.

Other instances go to show the existence of thievish propensity in these creatures, or an instinctive love of mischief, which can have no relation either to a natural care for themselves or their young. A young fox had been taken, and to please the children, kept alive in a box; when, as it had become quite a pet with the little ones, its sphere of captivity had been enlarged, while it was secured by a small chain several feet in length, one end of which was fastened to a collar around its neck, and the other to the box in which a hole had been made to give it egress or entrance at will. This had been placed at the side of the house and directly under a line on which clothes were hung at the family washing.

For several weeks different articles of clothing known to have been in the wash had unaccountably disappeared, and were thought to have been stolen, when, after one of these inexplicable losses in which several useful garments were missed, the unusual appearance of the earth within parts of young reynard's promenade ground attracted attention, and a small part of one of the missing articles was seen protruding out of the earth in which it had been buried. This led to still further examinations, and resulted in the recovery of all the lost property. It seems that master reynard had purloined them from their hangings one at a time by springing up and catching hold of the lower parts. What seemed most surprising, was the fact that no one

had ever seen him do this, and it must be that he cunningly watched his opportunity when no one was by; though this was no easy matter, for some one must have passed him nearly every hour in the day; nor could it have been done in the night, for no clothes were left out.

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CHAPTER X.

At the period of which we write, Montreal was as now, the chief city of Lower Canada, not only in commercial importance but in being the seat of such tribunals of justice as held jurisdiction over these parts of the Province; and of course all civil and judicial difficulties were referred there for adjustment. For years the want of legally constituted authority in the form of a sufficient number of civil magistrates was felt to be a serious disadvantage; this deficiency being but in part remedied by the appointment of militia officers who were empowered to act in cases when a magistrate's warrant could not be readily obtained.* Even a ser-

* Instance a case of horse-theft. The individual owning the horse had his suspicions roused on hearing that a neighbor had lost a saddle, bridle, portmanteau and great coat, with which he had prepared for an early start in the morning; and at once suspecting the thief and the course taken with the stolen property, after satisfying himself that his horse was indeed gone, without farther loss of time started in pursuit. The culprit had been gone some hours, and the pursuer gained no reliable news of him till on reaching Granby, where there was then a small settlement, he learned the course taken by the thief, and pressed forward in pursuit. At Yamaska mountain he took with him an ensign in the militia service, to whom the suspected person and lost horse were well known; and after cross-

geant of militia could execute a warrant if issued by a magistrate ; or if necessary the justice could appoint a special constable for that purpose ; but serious and vexatious delays frequently attended these proceedings, and too often the guilty escaped merited punishment.

In cases of theft, assault and battery, disturbance of the peace, &c., the culprit was to be arrested and sent to jail in Montreal, till tried and punished, or "delivered by due course of law." As the population increased, and communities were formed, in proportion as the order-loving and law-abiding citizens multiplied, so also did a certain ne'er-do-well, improvident and thriftless class accumulate ; its members no doubt being well recruited from those who had once escaped justice by crossing the boundary line, having thus "left

ing the river below Chambly, turned his course up toward St. Johns, in case the offender had taken that course on his way to the States. Having lost track of the fugitive, they took the road to L'Acadie, where he again found trace of the runaway who was seen to take refuge in a wood so situated that there was no way of egress for a horse but by the one entrance. Leaving his assistant here on guard, the owner of the horse went to a magistrate at L'Acadie, and, arming himself with a warrant, returned to watch his opportunity to capture the criminal, who, it was rightly supposed would emerge from his hiding place only under cover of darkness. His assistant ensconced himself snugly behind some timbers where he awaited the expected arrival. Very soon the barking of the house dog and the sound of steps gave indication of the thief's approach, who was first made aware of his immediate danger by hands laid simultaneously upon his collar and the bridle of his horse.

their country for their country's good"; but as change of residence does not necessarily involve change of nature and habit, they would perhaps fall into the same or similar errors without being always able to escape the consequences.

The difficulties that on so many occasions appeared to lie in the way of a strict and impartial administration of justice, were the same in this country as have with some variations been experienced in a greater or less degree by new settlers of every name and nation. It was no doubt owing to the sparsity of the population that so long a time elapsed before effective steps were taken to organize and enforce a more efficient judicial system.

But it was in cases of prosecution for debt, slander, and other local and social difficulties, that the greatest causes of complaint existed, as from being located within the district of Montreal, resort must be made to the proper functionaries in that city; an application often attended with such delay and expense, as in a great measure to defeat the object in view, and instead of furthering the ends of justice, materially to retard them; so that, in numerous instances, individuals chose to suffer grievous wrong, rather than subject themselves to the inconveniences, annoyances, and perhaps humiliations, which would be risked in an attempt to seek redress by course of law; illustrative of which fact very many at the present day could give cases in point.

But we have reason to congratulate each other on

the improvements and modifications more recently made in our judiciary system, such changes having been made, and such deficiencies remedied in the order of these affairs as the state of society in these townships loudly called for, and have left us little to wish in relation to them.

But it is of the olden time we are writing, and of the difficulties our forefathers experienced in laying the foundations of society in these townships. The need of well administered laws has been spoken of as a great drawback to both the moral and social improvement of the settlers; more stringent regulations, than as yet had been enforced being required by the exigencies of the times. Many of the first inhabitants of these parts of Canada were native Britons or their descendants; some of them had come across the water to seek homes in the colonies, expecting still to enjoy the protection of British laws, and end their days under their sheltering influences; but they soon found the illusion rudely dispelled in relation to the homes they had chosen, and the alternative presented to them was, either to return whence they had come, to take refuge in the wilds of Canada, or submit to what was highly distasteful and offensive; what, indeed, was considered by some, as an unbearable indignity. Some left for this country without waiting to see the point contested by force of arms; others were driven in, glad to escape with life, even at the loss of worldly substance; while others, possessing per-

haps more caution and self-control, waited till the storm had spent its fury, when they quietly disposed of their effects in a country that was no longer to them a home, and sought a residence amidst more congenial influences and associations.

Numbers of worthy and desirable inhabitants were thus brought into the country; though at the same time, it must be admitted that others came in, who could only be regarded in the light of unavoidable evils, being of that irresponsible ill-regulated class who "neither feared God, nor regarded man." The spirit of intolerable partizan animosity, engendered by intestine war, had disorganized communities, even families becoming estranged and sundered by the demoralizing influences then so prevalent in what were the British colonies. That diversity of opinion, conflicting interests, and the angry passions and prejudices that prevail in times of civil commotion, should permanently affect the characters of such as had mingled in them, or that minds should thus become unsettled, is a matter of little wonder to an understanding observer of human nature.

It might well seem no easy matter to execute laws suiting the exigencies of the times among the motley population here collected; but as a more cool and dispassionate state of feeling succeeded, order gradually came forth from chaotic confusion.

It was well that among those whom Providence had drawn into these Eastern Townships, were some choice

guiding spirits, who could discern where lay the elements which would settle and consolidate, and strengthen into a social fabric capable of rising superior to the untoward influences through which it had struggled. These men were deeply interested in whatever concerned the improvement and welfare of the communities they had been instrumental in founding, and had spared neither time nor means in efforts to advance their material prosperity.

Almost invariably they were men who had been subjected to a severe test of their loyalty; some having suffered serious inconvenience and injustice, if not actual suffering, in consequence of their principles.

It is a convincing fact in favor of our holy religion that its elements, though long hidden beneath a chaotic mass caused by the upheaving of social order and the subversion of civil law, will rise from the ruin, and gradually regain their sway over the mind. It was eminently so in this country. The leaven hidden beneath the roof of the lowly cabin, or deep in the heart of the humble believer in Christ, gradually, but none the less surely, diffused itself throughout the mass; in its influence on the mind, producing a strong bias in favor of law and order; and requiring but the fostering care of civil government, with religious and intellectual culture, to develop it into well established and orderly communities.

With a thin population considering the extent of the country, and nothing especially alluring either in soil,

climate, or natural productions, to induce immigration ; and with the positive disadvantages of an isolated situation as respects access to market, difficulties of communication, &c.; aside from the fact of our distance from places where government influence and patronage were centralized ;—the improvement of these parts may not seem to have kept pace with more rapid developments, in other readily accessible, inviting and favored localities. Yet notwithstanding all the disadvantages of a civil, social or local nature, through which from the first these townships have struggled, a good measure of prosperity has at length been realized as the reward of patient and industrious effort.

And may we not anticipate a prospect opening before us ? When the unhappy contest shall have ended that now distracts the neighbors with whom we have long been on intimate terms of business intercourse, and the internal improvements now in course of construction are completed, with others that seem to be required and may have been projected, and which aim at the further development of the resources of our country, is it too much to express hope of a future fraught with good ? Though the impression has been sent abroad that we are decidedly “ slow,” it will matter little in the end if we are correspondingly *sure*.

CHAPTER XI.

It had been customary from the formation of the earliest settlements, for the scattered inhabitants to get together occasionally for promoting neighborly intercourse, and gratifying the natural desire of the human mind for companionship with its kind; and it was then no uncommon thing for people to go several miles over the roads to attend those social gatherings, which in summer must be done either on horseback or on foot.

Of course as inhabitants increased, these assemblages became more frequent and were more numerously attended; the usual amusements being entered into with a zest which showed how highly the occasion was appreciated. Dancing was then as now much in vogue, and among those got together were some sufficiently skilled in violin practice, to furnish such music as was necessary. In those days and at those gatherings, spirituous liquors were usually considered essential as a beverage; but however the practice of drinking might have been carried to excess at other times and places, to the credit of these people, be it said that such was seldom the case on these festive occasions.

We are told by survivors that the people then

appeared to enjoy a greater degree of unconstrained social freedom and manifested a more genial and sincere good nature; and that less of the spirit of envy, rivalry and detraction prevailed among them, than frequently and deplorably characterizes older and better established communities.

It is said that as the material and intellectual prosperity of a place is advancing, the moral and religious principle that underlies all true and permanent social improvement, is at a stand-point, if not actually retrograding.

That this is necessarily so, of course we do not believe; but that it is apparently true in a majority of cases, we are forced to admit. Yet as it is not our present purpose to attempt explanation of the causes of this social *relapse*, or to prescribe a cure, we will only speak of it as one of the plagues incident to the present diseased state of society.

Somewhere about the year 1808, Mr. Sanford Whiting, a preacher of the Methodist connection, (which had already become extensively spread over parts of the United States, and entered some sections of Canada) came in as far as Stukely. Among the inhabitants of that township, some few had, previously to their removal thither, been associated with this people; these few heard him gladly, and after some subsequent visits he succeeded in forming a society which gradually increased in number, and was included in what was called the Dunham circuit, then comprising several places both sides of the Province line.

A good deal of religious excitement attended the meetings held by these people, who no doubt did much real good by awakening the guilty conscience and reforming the sinful life. This effect was apparent in many who had been living in open wickedness, and great moral improvement was witnessed in individuals, families and communities.

Of the same origin as many of the settlers in these Townships, and intimately acquainted with their habits, manner of life, &c., these preachers could accommodate themselves with much facility to the circumstances of the people, thus winning a sure way to the confidence and affections of those to whom they ministered. Their professed work of looking up the lost sheep, seemed to secure to them a claim upon the gratitude and reverence of those whose good they sought, which claim was honored and acknowledged in their being received as "teachers sent from God."

The collection and formation of societies for the better regulation and improvement of their distinctive forms, and above all the fact that the purity of their lives and conduct was singularly consistent with their zealous professions, gave them great ascendancy over many minds.

It was evidently the mission of these primitive, self-sacrificing and laborious men, to exercise a peculiar influence among the mixed mass constituting the original population of this section of Canada ; a mission

which succeeded in turning from the "error of their ways," many who otherwise might never have heard the "Good News" of salvation by faith in a crucified Redeemer.

There is certainly something impressive and convincing in the fact that these preachers, many of whom were unlearned, while teaching the doctrines of immediate conversion and the direct witness of the spirit, by their earnest and soul-searching appeals to the heart and conscience, awakened the slumbering faculties, alarmed the guilty, hardened conscience, and when the contrite soul was humbled and repentant, he was pointed to faith in the all-atoning sacrifice, "the Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the world."

The peculiarly striking ceremonies by which their worship was characterized, and the spirit-stirring strains of their sacred melodies, joined to direct personal appeals, had often an almost electrical effect.

News came of Mr. Whiting's death while on his way to New York, but the appointments to Dunham circuit were continued till interrupted by the war of 1812, which for a time broke off regular communication between the countries; but after the political horizon was clear, the preachers resumed and continued their labors till the arrival in the country of English Methodist missionaries; the first of whom was Mr. Thomas Cattrick, the second, Mr. Matthew Lang; names of men still remembered with affectionate esteem by many who will read these pages.

In time, the societies became numerous and prosperous; certain legal disabilities under which the missionaries at first labored, having been removed by earnest and well-directed effort.

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CHAPTER XII.

At the time Mr. Henry Lawrence took up his permanent residence in Stukely, the divisions made by the first surveyors, and the corner stakes placed by them, were still in good preservation; and he had frequent calls to assist in looking up different lots, which perhaps he could more readily do than any other person; owing to his better acquaintance with the different sections. But in process of time, and from different causes, these landmarks had become so obscured, or had disappeared so entirely, as to make a second survey of different parts necessary; and in this work his knowledge and experience were of essential service.

Somewhere about 1831, Capt. Cartier of L'Acadie, with thirty soldiers who had served with him on the Frontiers in the war of 1812, obtained a grant of land from government, which fell within the limits of Stukely, only about one half of the township having been taken up by associates who principally occupied the south-east part; and a grant had likewise been made to Bishop Mountain of Quebec, which lay in the north-west corner.

The soldiers' lands were taken from the scattered

and unoccupied portions ; each one's name having been set to a lot of a prescribed number ; the arrangements having been made from a plan of the township.

The party had come on accompanied by a surveyor, and were prepared for a lengthy sojourn in the woods ; but finding that they could make more advantageous arrangements with Mr. Lawrence, they let the job to him under certain stipulations agreed upon to the satisfaction of all.

A company of five persons, viz., the surveyor, two for the chain, one for the flag, and one for the axe, started in good spirits, each carrying a share of eatables. The surveyor took his flute along, so that in the absence of other sources of enjoyment, they might make themselves merry with music ; and some rather amusing incidents occurred during their sojourn of a fortnight in the woods, where they camped out every night.

It chanced that the lot falling to Capt. Cartier's eldest son, was found to be located on the summit of Orford mountain (as a part of that elevation of land lies within the limits of Stukely) ; and, owing to the presence of minerals in that vicinity, the operations of the compass were so embarrassed,* that attempts at survey-

* The writer was informed that soon after Mr. Nicholas Austin's first settlement in Bolton, he had engaged the services of two duly authorized surveyors, who, refusing to be guided by their compass on coming through from Montreal, got lost in the woods ; when their employer, thinking that surveyors who

ing in the locality were abandoned. With the exception of this *contre-temps* their work was satisfactorily accomplished, and the party returned in the best of spirits.

It was while engaged in this enterprise, which led them into so many different parts of the township, that Mr. Lawrence gained a more thorough knowledge of the various sections; and finding that a large tract in North Stukely, well covered with both hard and soft timber, and suitable for either farming or lumbering operations, was for sale on easy terms, and that it contained a valuable water power, he resolved to avail himself of the opportunity and become the proprietor of the property. The peculiar advantage of the situation consisted in its containing the only mill seat within several miles, which, with tolerable land and good timber, opened an inviting field for industry and enterprise. He therefore purchased sixteen hundred acres of land immediately around the water power; and, after making a commencement, removed there at once erecting a saw mill and factory for wooden or cooper-ware, for which the land around afforded an abundant supply of material.

These wares mostly found market in Montreal; and, as the business was carried on largely with the help of his sons, it was continued so long as it was considered

could thus go astray compass in hand, were hardly reliable, sent them back. Might not their misadventure have been caused by the existence of minerals in that mountainous section?

profitable. Subsequently he was induced to give up the management of affairs to the young men, though he is still living at Lawrenceville, North Stukely, at the advanced age of eighty-five years; enjoying a comparatively healthy old age after such a life of activity.

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CHAPTER XIII.

Mary Brown, born in Stockbridge,* western Massachusetts, Oct. 27th, 1742, was a daughter of deacon — Brown, of that place, who was descended from a respectable English family.

There was a tribe of friendly Indians in Stockbridge at that time, among whom the little Mary was a special favorite ; and, from often visiting their wigwams, and being thus frequently and intimately associated with them, she learned to speak their language and sing some of their hymns. Part of the tribe had embraced Christianity ; and among the sacred songs her children remember as having learned from her, was one composed by a native named Okkum, which commences as follows :

“ Throughout the Saviour’s life we trace
Nothing but shame and deep disgrace ;
No period else was seen—
Till he a spotless victim fell,
Tasting in soul a painful hell,
Caused by the creature’s sin.”

* Called Ousetannuck, by the Indians.

Of her natural characteristics as exhibiting themselves in earlier life, we may say that she was quick to perceive, prompt to decide and resolute to enforce; and withal of that hasty, impetuous temper which required restraint and discipline.

Born of Presbyterian parents and brought up in the puritanic manner of life prevailing at that time and place, she had yet a cheerful flow of spirits; and a spice of the mirthfully mischievous would sometimes break out to the no small annoyance of her parents, notwithstanding the restraints of the demure system of home education then practiced. Laughable instances of this are told among her grand-children and great-grand-children.

It was no doubt owing in a great measure to this very exuberance of animal spirits, or cheerful and animated nature, chastened and regulated by experience, that she was able to endure the trials and perform the labors of no common magnitude, which fell to her lot during a life of no ordinary vicissitude; and live through to enjoy "a green old age."

On the 18th of March, 1760, she was married to Isaac Lawrence, of Canaan, Connecticut, and subsequently became the mother of eleven children, nine of whom lived to be men and women. She had been thoroughly instructed in the theoretical part of Christianity, and indeed in the practical, so far as concerned attention to outward observances and the regulation of her conduct before the world; had like-

wise learned some very important truths respecting our common frailties as human beings, and our dependence on an Almighty Power ; but it was probably left for experience and necessity to bring home to her heart, conscience and understanding, those all-powerful influences which must have operated to make her the practical and efficient character she at length became.

It has been said that she was naturally high-tempered, to which may be added a quickness to perceive and resent cause of offence ; but probably through experience and observation, she had become aware of danger from indulging in this infirmity, and awake to the necessity of self-control. Her natural and acquired abilities, chastened and modified by the stern discipline of life, fitted her to enter upon her duties as wife, mother and friend, understandingly ; to discharge them with faithfulness and zeal ; to meet disappointment and vicissitude patiently, and with a fortitude and inward strength that enabled her to "rise superior to each pain." She seemed to possess a power to accommodate herself to circumstances, while her devotion to the interests of her family and friends was worthy of all praise.

With these qualities in active exercise at the head of a household band, her constant example commanded not only the love and respect of her immediate friends, but the esteem of the entire community where she resided.

In compliance with the wishes of him she had promised to "love, honor and obey," she gave up the home to which he had brought her as a bride, to brave the trials and difficulties necessary to form one in the wilderness.

We may not know her feelings in parting from the friends and associates of earlier years, or of her grief at giving up all the refined enjoyments and endearments of social life; but we can imagine that eyes dimmed with tears, looked their last on the dear faces and scenes left behind; and we know that she went forth from these to seek a resting place, and form a home for her little ones, in desert wilds. We will not dwell on her sojourn in Vermont, but follow her at once to Canada, where for many years those peculiar qualities which formed her distinguishing traits found ample room for exercise.

Ever after their first isolation from society, Mrs. Lawrence's children had enjoyed an advantage denied to many, in the watchful and loving care of an earnest-minded, conscientious and self-sacrificing mother, whose efforts in their behalf were bounded only by her powers of usefulness to them.

Having been educated after the most approved manner in use at the place where she was born, subsequent experience had fitted her to meet each new change or trial, and she invariably followed the line duty seemed to mark out.

The younger members of her family knew little of

schools ; their mother was their teacher, and from her they inherited both a taste for books and a facility for learning ; yet however much she felt the cultivation of their minds to be essential to their well-being in life, her own unaided efforts could do comparatively little in accomplishing the work near her heart ; but she did " what she could. "

After the settlement of Mr. Gale in Farnham, and Mr. Willard in Stukely, the young people had better opportunities of gratifying this taste for reading, as both these gentlemen, in course of time, became somewhat acquainted with the situation and prospects of the family, and noticed with approval that the two young men, Henry and Erastus, kept themselves aloof from degrading associations. With the view of encouraging them, as they seemed struggling through adverse influences to acquire comfort for their dear mother, each gave them access to his library, that of Mr. Gale particularly, containing a choice, valuable, and, for those days, extensive assortment of books. These brothers had been prevented from following any particular bent or inclination, by the constant calls upon their time and strength which the situation of the family involved ; and indeed so strong were their filial feelings, that not only a prompt and willing obedience was given to their mother, but her very wishes were forestalled whenever practicable.

" Line upon line, and precept upon precept " had fallen on their ears from the lips of her whose care of

them from very infancy had indeed been a "labor of love;" and such was the gratitude and veneration they instinctively felt, that her comfort and happiness were their first care, her smiling approval their sufficient reward, and the most willing service on their part, none too great an offering to render. While pursuing a system of evening readings, as well for mental as practical improvement, the children had usually each their turn, and the mother with her work sat by to act as prompter; reference being made to the dictionary to decide the meaning of words not clearly understood, or in cases of doubtful pronunciation.

They were likewise taught to write; and particular attention was given to the formation of correct habits of speech; the great necessity for this being that among the different specimens of our kind often calling for food and shelter at this "lodge in the wilderness," there were representations of various "tongues and people,"—English, Irish, Scotch, French, Dutch, and Indian; all in all comprising a heterogeneous collection, or taken singly a sort of analysis of our common humanity. No wonder then that though the language spoken was our own mother tongue, or designed to be such, it was frequently uttered with such variations, additions, [omissions and gesticulations, as in effect "murdered the king's English."

Mrs. Lawrence had seen the too sure effect this would in time have on her children; and with characteristic forethought had taken unwearied pains to

counteract the threatened evil, by teaching them to speak correctly, in which she was successful, as may be seen in her descendants.

When the brothers, Henry and Erastus, took up their residence in Stukely, the parents remained with their younger son, Mr. David Lawrence, though frequently visiting and spending time with the other children.

Early in March, 1812, they were called to the sick bed of their son Erastus. The disease was pronounced typhus fever; and, after suffering weeks of pain, part of which time he was delirious, this estimable young man died, having but a short time before completed his 28th year. This was a terrible grief to his watching mother and surviving friends; and a cause of deep and sincere regret to those who had known him as the active, intelligent, and obedient boy, or the energetic, persevering and obliging young man.

Naturally gifted with a mind of superior order, and possessing an ardent love of the good and beautiful, with earnest admiration of, and aspirations for education and refinement, it is probable that had his early opportunities equalled his tastes and talents, he would have risen to eminence in life.

As it was, his energy and industry were fast opening before him a field for the exercise of those natural powers which marked his character, and he was deservedly esteemed in the community where he resided. But "death loves a shining mark," and Heaven's ways are sometimes "mysterious."

So much was his mother affected by his death, that she all the more readily sunk under the influence of the same disease, by which physical and mental powers were alike prostrated for a time ; and when so far recovered as to be removed on a litter to her own house, she was comparatively alone in the world, for her husband had been suddenly struck down by paralysis within thirty-six hours after his return from the funeral of their lamented son.

Such a benumbing power has disease over the faculties, that though Mrs. Lawrence was apparently conscious during the short illness of her husband, it is not probable that she could have experienced the intensity of feeling exhibited on other occasions of like character. She subsequently appeared comparatively tranquil and cheerful, but never regained her usual robust health, though she lived some years after these sad scenes, residing in the family of her youngest son.

Through a long life of no common vicissitudes, she had held on the same consistent course, and to the last maintained her faith and hope in Christ her Redeemer.

Though, as has been said, she was bred a Presbyterian, her mind was open to conviction, and ready to receive the truth in whatever form presented. On the introduction of the Methodist societies, without waiting to decide whether the doctrines the new preachers promulgated were in accordance with those enforced and received without dissent by the people among

whom her earlier life was spent, she broke through the trammels of a puritanic education, set aside preconceived prejudices, and cast in her lot with those people, among whom she remained an acceptable member till called to join the Church above.

She was particularly remarkable for a ready and active sympathy for those in affliction; indeed such was her untiring devotion to the duty of attending upon the sick, that nothing less than utter inability could keep her from this work.

At a period in the history of these early settlements, when medical advice could seldom be had, her extensive experience fitted her in a measure to supply that want, thus giving her another claim upon the gratitude of the people, among the elder portion of whom she is still remembered with respect and affection. Her influence was the more readily felt and acknowledged both in her own family and by those around, from the fact that she possessed in no common degree the rare and happy talent of combining pleasure with duty.

Those habits of industry which are essential to such a situation in life, were not only practically enforced in her own example, but upon her children, who "rise up and call her blessed;" some of them being still alive to revere her virtues and speak her praise.

CHAPTER XIV.

Mr. Ralph Merry, a native of Lynn, Massachusetts, came in from St. Johnsbury, Vt., to Magog Outlet, in 1799. He there purchased one thousand acres of land, and commenced improvements after the usual manner of the country, having at that time eight children. As they were obliged to pasture their cows in the woods, or rather turn them into the woods for want of a pasture, the little boys were often sent to look them up; on one of which occasions three brothers, (the second of whom, named Benjamin, was about ten years old,) were sent in company for the missing animals, and after going over the familiar grounds without success, gave up further search and turned towards home. One of them continued on his way; while the others, one of whom was Benjamin, stopped to gather some of the beech-nuts that lay thickly scattered on the ground in that place. Benny remained a short time with his brother, when he suddenly started on in pursuit of the one who had gone; and very soon after, the other left the beech-nuts, and running, soon overtook the first started. On inquiring for Benjamin, he received for answer, "I left him with you;" when, in alarm at his disappearance thus, they together returned

in haste to the point from which all three had started, but no Benjamin could they find ; and after fruitless search and useless calling, they returned to the house with the startling intelligence that Benny was lost.

This child had been an object of special interest and tender care, from having in early childhood received a severe fright (the particulars of which the writer did not learn), which so unsettled his mind, that, notwithstanding all that could be done for him, he at times appeared partially deranged, though usually possessing his full intellectual faculties. From the constant call upon their sympathies this unfortunate infirmity involved, the poor child had become greatly endeared to his parents, who had made it a point to shield him from every harm with the greatest tenderness.

Immediate search was made, though without success ; and, when the alarm was given, the scattered neighbors assembled and turned out in a body to look up the lost.

This was in the spring of the year, always a busy time with farmers ; but Mr. Merry was much respected by his neighbors ; and so much sympathy was excited by the case, that the search was prosecuted day after day, being given up only with the hope of his having escaped death or captivity.

It seems that sudden surprise had the effect of bringing him into this unhappy state, when he was often in the habit of throwing off his clothes as if in the effort of relieving himself of something he felt oppres-

sive ; and it was surmised that on getting bewildered and losing his self-control he had done this, as his hat and clothes were found in different places, where he had apparently thrown them in his fright and flight.

The woods in the vicinity were thoroughly and effectually searched, but without finding other trace of the missing child, or any thing to direct suspicion as to the course he had taken, except the discovery of Indians' tracks and a deserted camp, in which the appearance of the ashes and other signs gave indication that its occupants had but recently left.

This gave rise to the idea that the poor little lost one had fallen in with the savages and been carried off by them ; which conviction so soon settled on the minds of the people, that, in despair of any good results from farther effort, the search was abandoned. When this sad thought came home to his mother's mind, it is said that she roamed about like one distracted, crying out in the anguish of her heart, "Benny, Benny, O where are you?" thus giving expression to feelings which a true motherly instinct can readily understand and appreciate.

But though the neighbors and friends were discouraged, Mr. Merry could not relinquish the idea of finding his child ; and the thought of his being in captivity filled the father's mind with agony. Neither pains nor expense were spared in the search, and in his travels while in Lynn, he was induced to apply to "Old Moll Pitcher," of famous fortune-telling noto-

riety, and to "Betsey Barr," of kindred celebrity, both of these worthies assured him that his boy had been taken away by two dark-skinned people, apparently natives. The last named of these women gave him to understand that the lost child had been taken to a place where three rivers met; and he so far followed her instructions, which perhaps in a measure agreed with his own convictions, as to go to Three Rivers, where he made earnest and extensive enquiries, but without learning anything satisfactory; and the same result followed every attempt to get reliable information in any quarter, till effort was given up in despair. Some of the relatives, however, were still of opinion that the child had been taken off first by the Indians, and that, in consequence of his becoming confirmed in imbecility, (a consequence which was naturally supposed would follow the fright caused by finding himself in the power of these strange beings) they had taken him near some settlement in the States, and abandoned him there; which supposition subsequently gained probability from the report that a wandering, half-crazed unfortunate had been taken up and placed in the alms-house at Haverhill, Massachusetts, where he died after some years. Show of probability was further attached to this story from rumors that the poor creature in his more lucid intervals gave such account of himself, and other members of his family, as led to conjectures of his identity with the lost Benjamin Merry. But this meagre intelligence only

reached these parts after the father's death, which occurred some thirty-six years since, so that nothing further was ever ascertained. The writer received this account from a surviving sister of the lost boy, who was in her ninth year when these events occurred, and she distinctly remembers the agony of grief into which her mother was thrown by them, and the distress and anxiety of her father during his prolonged search; and when after leaving no means untried which in any mind offered a probability of the child's discovery, or of gaining sure knowledge of his death, he was compelled to relinquish hope of either. She remembers also the regret and sympathy felt and manifested by their neighbors and friends at the suspense and uncertainty in which Benjamin's fate was shrouded.

Mr. Merry had purchased extensively of the associate claimants; and in consequence of parties having failed in the fulfilment of stipulated obligations, was loser to a very great and seriously embarrassing extent. In short he was a sufferer from the effects of that system of granting land which in admitting of so many and great abuses, often made the innocent and honest-minded, victims of the designing, unscrupulous and unprincipled adventurer.

CHAPTER XV.

The following biographical notices are intended to represent an honorable and honored class, to whom reference has been made in this work, as having been prominent in forwarding the settlement of the country, and largely interested in its subsequent improvement and prosperity.

With the exception of Col. Wells, these persons became actual residents of Canada, that individual having remained at Brattleborough till his death, though, on a grant of land having been made to his children, they removed hither and settled in Farnham, where many of their descendants still reside.

It might be proper here to say that the intention of the writer was to have collected and prepared a greater number of these obituary notices of characters long since passed from life's stage, many of them no doubt consigned to forgetfulness and oblivion ; but finding that such a course would necessarily enlarge her work much beyond the limits originally intended, the design was abandoned ; the knowledge of the subject arrived at having induced the conviction that in very many if not most respects, the individuals of whom sketches are thus given, may be relied on as a general

representation of that class to which Canada owes much.

It may be well also to say that in preparing these short biographies, the writer is, in most of the cases, largely indebted to surviving relatives and friends of the deceased parties; but in those of Messrs. Wells and Gale, particularly, much has been taken from an American book, entitled, "The history of Eastern Vermont."

SAMUEL WELLS.

Samuel Wells, son of Jonathan and Mary Wells, though of English ancestry, was born in Deerfield, Province of Massachusetts, in 1730. He married Hannah Sheldon; and in July, 1762, settled in Brattleborough (now in the south-eastern part of Vermont,) on a farm of six hundred acres, situated about a mile north of the east village. Here was born his family of thirteen children, two of whom died in infancy. The remaining, five sons and six daughters, with the exception of one daughter, married in Brattleborough. A grant of twelve hundred acres of land in Canada, having been made to each of them by the Crown, as a compensation for the losses which Col. Wells had suffered during the revolution on account of his adhesion to the King, they all removed thither between the years 1798 and 1802. The daughters were married to Samuel Gale, Ephraim Nash, Micah Townsend, Jonathan Gorton, Nathaniel Church, and

Ephraim Stimpson ; of whom Samuel Gale and Micah Townsend became prominent public men.

At the time of his removal to Brattleborough, the population of those portions of the New Hampshire grants was small and sparse ; and many of the pioneers of civilization were contented when they were so fortunate as to secure a roof for shelter and food to sustain life.

The condition of Col. Wells was, however, superior to that of most of the early settlers of Vermont, and the influence of his character and position was for many years extensively acknowledged. Upon the establishment of Cumberland County by the government of New York, he was appointed a judge, a justice of the peace ; and was authorized by a commission to swear all those who should hold office in the county. The commissions issued in conformity with these appointments, were all dated the 27th of July, 1766, and he served under them until the authority from which they were derived ceased to be acknowledged by the people. During the same period he was the chief military man in the southern part of the county ; and was one of the two delegates to the general assembly where they took their seats, Feb. 2nd, 1773.

He never failed to evince a loyal disposition even after policy had dictated an opposite course of action, and was once examined before the New York committee of safety, on suspicion of having been engaged in an attempt to introduce arms into Cumberland county,

for the purpose of reinstating and maintaining the administration of justice in that county, in behalf of Great Britain; but he was dismissed, nothing having been found against him.

Though opposed to the American cause, he had sufficient skill and influence to save his property from confiscation, but was not able to escape the odium which attached to a loyalist, or the punishments which a profession of this nature so often incurred. From documents in existence it appears that he was subjected to frequent insults and violent ill-usage from political opponents; and in a *New York Gazette*, under date of June 23rd, 1777, it is stated that "Judge Wells of Brattleborough had been lately confined to his farm and otherwise ill-treated;" and it is known that for a long time, permission was granted to any one to shoot him, should he be found beyond the bounds of his acres.

Col. Wells maintained his principles as a loyalist firmly till the last.

The opening sentence of his will, which was executed on the 28th of October, 1784, was in these words: "In the name of God, I, Samuel Wells, of Brattleborough, formerly in the county of Cumberland, in the Province of New York, but now the territory called and known by the name of the State of Vermont, do make my last will and testament in manner and form following, &c." Micah Townsend, his son-in-law, being one of the heirs and administrators under the will, and at the same time probate judge of the district of Marlborough

which included Brattleborough, the general Assembly, by an act passed on the 21st of Oct., 1786, permitted the probate judge of the district of Westminster to administer on the will "as fully and as amply as if the said Samuel Wells had died in the district of Westminster."

Col. Wells died deeply insolvent. The firmness with which he adhered to the cause of Royalty during the struggles of the revolution, subjected him, as has been shown, to many annoyances and losses, and led him to engage privately in attempts to advance the interests of the mother country. Still he was an intelligent and influential gentleman, and was much esteemed and beloved in his private character.

Three years after the peace of '83 he died in Brattleborough. A plain white marble headstone, in the old burying ground, marks the spot where his mortal remains repose, and bears the following inscription :

"In memory of Col. Samuel Wells of this town, a judge of Cumberland County Court, and a member of the Assembly of the Province of New York, who departed this life, August 6th, 1786, in the 55th year of his age.

"His friends, the stranger and the poor, have lost
A kind companion and a generous host :
When he fell,—the Statesman fell,
And left the world his worth to tell."

SAMUEL GALE.

Samuel Gale was born in Hampshire, England, and received a good education. Having been appointed a Paymaster in the British Army, he was ordered to the American colonies, probably about the year 1770. From manuscript plottings prepared by him, which are still extant, it is evident that his knowledge and practice as a surveyor, were accurate and extensive ; but of this fact more definite evidence exists both in his printed works and manuscripts.

“The Complete Surveyor” was prepared by him, and on the 12th of March, 1772, he issued in Philadelphia a printed prospectus of the work ; to which paper were affixed recommendatory notices from the Right Hon. the Earl of Stirling, Lieutenant-Governor Cadwallader Colden, Mr. Rittenhouse, and Mr. Lukens. On the 25th of June, 1773, he married Rebecca, the eldest daughter of Col. Samuel Wells, of Brattleborough, and soon after left the service.

Becoming a resident of Cumberland county, he was appointed, on the 7th of March, 1774, clerk of the court, and on the 5th of May, 1774, received a commission authorizing him to administer the prescribed oaths to all persons appointed to office in the county. Warmly attached to the Royal cause, and deeming those who should rebel against constituted authority as worthy of the direst punishment, his indignation knew no bounds when he saw the yeomanry, whom he had

been accustomed to regard only in the light of obedient subjects, demanding redress for wrongs which doubtless appeared to him more imaginary than real, and enforcing the demand with manifestations, the import of which could not be misunderstood.

Actions performed in a moment of excitement cannot justly be regarded as criteria of character, and often give impressions decidedly at variance with truth. This was eminently so in Mr. Gale's case; he having been arrested and imprisoned several times for active participation in public affairs during the troubles of that exciting period.

At times he was kept in close confinement and even subjected to actual inconveniences and sufferings, in consequence of his attachment to the Royal cause. For taking part in a political disturbance on the 14th of March, 1775, he was imprisoned in the jail at Westminster, where he remained several days, when he was removed to Northampton, Mass., and kept in close confinement till the 6th of April; when he was released, and repaired to New York, where his family joined him, and where he continued to reside till February, 1776, when he was again arrested and conveyed to a guard house in the upper barracks of the city, where Connecticut troops were quartered; thence he was removed to Fairfield jail in Connecticut, and closely confined.

His letter, in effort to obtain his release, addressed to the Secretary of the Provincial Congress of New York, requesting him to interfere in his behalf, both in style

and expression evinces the honorable character of the writer. "You know," he writes, "that my sentiments have been uniform and steady, even if erroneous; and therefore I conceive myself entitled at least to the privilege and protection which by the laws of all Christian nations are granted to prisoners of war; not that I am an enemy to any man breathing, but being by birth and education one of that country between which and this country a war exists, let me request that I may be allowed the privileges granted by all Christians to a prisoner of war, or else the birthright of a British subject—the writ of '*habeas corpus*.'"

He likewise complained of his place of confinement, and of the inconveniences and sufferings which endangered health if not life. This letter was considered by the New York Provincial Congress on the 5th of March; and the seizure of Mr. Gale was declared to be "a wanton act of military power, inconsistent with the liberty for which the colonies are contending."

In the correspondence that ensued between the Secretary and Mr. Gale respecting the latter's imprisonment, the following impassioned peroration, which shows with what soul-felt earnestness he entered into the subject, as well as the forebodings which at times disturbed him, closes one of his letters: "Whether I return to New York or not, may the Almighty's will be done! I flatter myself that the nobleness of heart which characterizes the free born Briton, that spirit in which malice or revenge hath never reigned, added to

a conscience serene and clear, will enable me to pass through the various mazes and labyrinths of persecution, torture or even death, with the patience and resignation of a martyr; and should the apprehensions which I have mentioned grow into realities, I shall be able to say with Balaam, 'Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his.'

After a discussion of the subject of his imprisonment, a resolution passed the Congress, declaring the opinion of that body, "that Mr. Gale ought forthwith to be released, inasmuch as he had been carried away and imprisoned without any hearing, trial or adjudication whatever." For some reason, however, he was not released; and in another letter to the Secretary, dated April 12th, Mr. Gale repeated his application, and detailed the reasons why it should be granted; described in glowing terms the misery of his situation, and expressed his views upon the merits of the struggle between the Colonies and the Mother Country in a manner that gave evidence of the sincerity, ability, and honesty of the man.

A few days after this letter was written, the sheriff of Fairfield received the resolve of the Provincial Congress and released his prisoner on parole of honor. In a letter the sheriff notified General Washington of the course he had pursued, and asked for directions. Of Mr. Gale he wrote "he is an Englishman, a gentleman of good education, and possessed of high notions in favor of his native country; is frank and open in declaring his senti-

ments, but says 'he never has been, or will be, active against the colonies.'" After a time, and critical examination, Mr. Gale was released from his parole of honor and restored to liberty.

His sufferings while in confinement had not tended to lessen his hatred of the "rebel cause"; but, on the contrary, had strengthened his attachment to the government in whose behalf he had endured so many privations.

Experience had also taught him that he was ill prepared to engage in civil commotions; and, desirous of avoiding a repetition of scenes, which to him had been fraught with sorrow and distress, he prudently removed with his family to Quebec, where he received the appointment of Provincial Secretary under the administration of Governor Prescott. He subsequently accompanied his Excellency to England, to defend him with his powerful pen in the controversy which had arisen out of difficulty between the Governor and Council in Canada.

He had written and published an elaborate work entitled "An Essay on Public Credit," involving many abstruse and mathematical calculations on finance, having for its object the gradual extinguishment of the national debt of England. This work he presented for adoption to Pitt, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, by whom its correctness was admitted, and its principles highly approved; but who found it easier to put off the learned author with a pension for life, than

to meet the public creditors with this book of financial reform in his hand, which might have cost him his place.

In 1803 or 1804, Mr. Gale rejoined his family in Canada, where he lived in retirement, and died at his country residence in Farnham, on the 27th of June, 1826. He left a daughter, since deceased, and a son who has been an eminent lawyer, and a judge of King's Bench at Montreal, where he now lives, retired and respected.

Mr. Gale possessed an intellect of more than ordinary strength, and his writings were always pregnant with thought and lucid in expression. In disposition he was amiable and forgiving; in manners, polished and gentlemanly; in character ingenuous, honorable and conscientious.

MICAH TOWNSEND.

Among the early settlers of the Township of Farnham was Micah Townsend, a Lawyer from Brattleborough. He was the youngest son of Micajah Townsend, of Long Island, N. Y., where he was born on the 13th of May, 1749. He was educated at the college of Princeton, New Jersey, where he graduated in 1776. He then entered upon the study of the law in the city of New York, and was admitted to practice by the license of the Honorable Cadwallader Colden, Governor of the Colony of New York.

After practicing his profession for a time at the White Plains, he retired from the disturbances of the revolutionary war to a more quiet part of the interior, and settled in the village of Brattleborough, Vt., where he established himself in his legal vocation, and married Mary the third daughter of Col. Samuel Wells, a gentleman of wealth and influence in that town, being somewhat noted (in the great struggle for the political independence of the country) for his firm adherence to the cause of the British Government. He resided here in the exercise of the duties of his profession for twenty-four years, and here all his children, eight in number, were born.

His legal abilities and attainments gave him a considerable degree of prominence in the early history of Vermont, at a time when those acquirements were rare and very much needed. He was consequently called to fill various offices requiring some knowledge of law, such as Clerk of the Court, Judge of Probate, Secretary of State under the administration of the first Governor of Vermont, the Honorable Thomas Chittenden, &c. His legal studies had peculiarly qualified him to excel in the draughting of law, and such documents as pertained to his profession, which was a talent of the greatest importance in forming the Constitution and judicial organization of a new State. In 1788 he resigned his office of Secretary of State, and retired from all public business.

After the termination of the revolutionary war, the British Government granted wild lands of the Crown

in Canada to reward the services and remunerate the losses of those subjects in the Colonies, who had been true to their allegiance ; and on application, the family of Col. Wells received a grant of twelve hundred acres to each of his children, which lands were located in the eastern part of the Township of Farnham, Lower Canada. In the years 1798, '99 and 1800, most of the children of Col. Wells, with their families, removed from Brattleborough to Farnham to take possession of the lands thus liberally bestowed upon them by the government. Ephraim Nash, Esq., a son-in-law of Col. Wells, and a land-surveyor, was employed to measure out so much of the eastern part of the Township as was required for the grants of the Wells family and thirteen additional associates. Farnham is bounded by Granby on the north, Brome on the east, Dunham on the south, and by the French Seigniories on the west. In extent from north to south it is six miles, and its allotment is in six Ranges or Concessions of one mile each ; the lots, being about one hundred rods more or less wide, so as to contain two hundred acres English measure, with the usual allowance for highways.

In the grant of lands for the Township of Farnham, as in most of the grants made by the British Government after the conquest of Canada, two sevenths of each township were reserved from the alienation, viz., one seventh for any future use or appropriation by the Crown, and one seventh for the support of the Protestant clergy ; and in the diagram of each township, these

were equally and systematically distributed throughout the whole grant.

Thus, while the government designed to retain a portion of the soil in every township, the piety and love of the good old King George, for his beloved church, was shown in his design to endow that church, and sustain the worship he loved so well, to all future time.

When this considerate provision was made for the maintenance of the worship of God, according to the doctrines and ceremonies so dear to him, little did that monarch think that his kind benefactions to the church, of his affections, would, while yet his memory was revered by his loving subjects, be torn from that church by the envy and cupidity of sectaries, who, in seeking the loaves and fishes bestowed on the establishment, besieged the Provincial Parliament with such eager vehemence and such rancorous violence as to threaten a resort to revolution if their demands were not complied with; and the legislature, finding it easier to surrender what was not their own, to satisfy their greedy persecutors, than to persuade those who were thus clamorous, yielded to their unjust claims, lent the sanction of its legislative character to the commission of a heartless wrong, and sacrificed the patrimony of the church. But to return; the subject of this notice left his residence in Brattleborough in the year 1801, and resided in the adjacent town of Guilford for one year; whence he removed his family to his lands in Farnham,

arriving there in the month of March, 1802, selecting his residence, building a log house, and clearing up a farm on lots No. 16 and 17, first range ; through both lots a beautiful stream of water passes, viz., the south branch of the river Yamaska.

In this location he remained with his family, making such improvements in clearing and cultivating, as his limited means enabled him to do, until the year 1816, when he removed to Clarenceville to reside with his son, the Rev. Micajah Townsend, Rector of that parish.

Having made his mark by an acceptable and able discharge of official duties, which he was called at various periods to perform, the later years of his life were spent in retirement, in social and religious duties, domestic enjoyments, and in a preparation for the end which he felt to be approaching. On the 27th of June, he was called to part with the faithful and affectionate wife of his bosom, to whom he had been most happily united for 54 years ; and on the 23rd of April, 1832, he closed his long and useful life at the age of about 83 years, having a strong and peaceful hope of a blissful immortality, and leaving the world wiser and better than he found it.

SAMUEL WILLARD.

Samuel Willard was born in Petersham, Worcester County, colony of Massachusetts, December 1, 1766. He was the son of Major Joshua Willard, and nephew

of Col. Abijah Willard, who distinguished himself in the old French and Indian wars; his active services in behalf of the colonists, during those seasons of strife and blood, having secured to him a pension from the British government.

Col. Willard was naturally gifted with a remarkable power of discernment, which talent was sharpened to acuteness by constant calls upon his penetration, vigilance, and courage, in having to deal with a wily and barbarous foe. In numerous instances their crafty and cunningly devised schemes were met with a shrewdness, and counteracted by a strategy, which effectually thwarted their murderous designs, so that they feared his ability as much as they admired his bravery.

In illustration of this peculiar characteristic of the man, the following incident is related:—

“While busied with a company of laborers in a field near a piece of woods, he became aware of the approach of a party of hostile Indians—strange as it may seem—through the smell of the paint with which they make themselves horrible. His keenly comprehensive mind saw at once the danger of alarming the men, on the one hand, or, on the other, of arousing the suspicions of the Indians that he was in the least aware of their approach. It was in the season of strawberries; they were very thick in the field, and this seemed to suggest to his active mind, ever fruitful in resources to avert danger, a plan of escape from the toils of the wary enemy. He spoke aloud to the men, apparently that the most

distant of them might hear distinctly, but really to put the Indians on a false scent, saying that it was a pity to destroy so much fine fruit, and proposing that they should at once go to the house, and, after an early dinner, return with the women and children to gather and enjoy it. He knew that the crafty creatures who were trying to surround them would, if their suspicions were not aroused, be induced to wait that they might capture the whole party, men, women, and children.

The stratagem was entirely successful, showing the instinctive shrewdness of the man, as well as a surprising fertility of resource to meet emergencies. No sooner were they safe at the house than a trusty messenger was dispatched for help which came in time to save them from the Indians, who had for some time waited the coming of the whole party into the field as they had been led to expect.

We hardly know which most to admire, the clear sagacity which conceived the plan (when to most minds escape would have seemed hopeless), or the promptitude and self-possession with which it was executed. This was but one of many instances in which Col. Willard's quickness of perception, self-control and readiness of action, were instrumental in saving the lives or liberties of his neighbors and fellow-colonists. He therefore stood high in the estimation of the people, and the neighboring Indians to whom he was known looked upon him as a superior being; obliged

as they were to fear his tact, and vigilance, as well as to admire his courage and bravery. This mingled feeling led them to make repeated attempts to get him into their power, though it is not evident that they designed taking his life. But these efforts always failed.

Major Willard, the father of Samuel, was distinguished as a zealous adherent of the Royal cause during the exciting period of the American revolution; and as at an early age young Samuel exhibited an intelligence and strength of character that recommended him to favorable notice, he was at times dispatched on secret and important services; it being thought that his youthfulness would the more readily disarm suspicion.

After being established in business at Newfane, Vt., he married Miss Lucinda Knowlton of that place, and afterward removed to Sheldon in the same State, where his wife died in 1800, leaving him with two young daughters. Subsequent to his settlement in Stukely, he married Miss Elizabeth Patterson, by whom he had two sons and five daughters, making in all a family of nine children.

After a residence of some years in Stukely, he removed to Frost Village in Shefford, where he entered into business and resided for a term of years; but failing in this, he returned to his farm in Stukely, where his mortal course terminated, Oct. 29th, 1833, he having been a permanent resident of Canada between thirty and forty years, the greater part of which time he had held offices of trust and responsibility, discharging the duties of public life with fidelity and honor.

To his family he was tenderly and devotedly attached, his memory being still cherished by his surviving children with warm affection.

Though unassuming, diffident and retiring in manners, possessed of a quick sensibility and nice sense of honor, and perhaps a little lacking in that assurance which by the multitude is at once accepted as prestige and proof of superiority, he was yet gentlemanly in deportment, and to those who looked beneath the surface, to qualities of heart and mind, he was the intelligent and agreeable social companion, the earnest-minded, faithful and sympathizing friend.

NICHOLAS AUSTIN.

Nicholas Austin, senior, came from Somersworth, New Hampshire, in the year 1793, and settled in Bolton, of which township he was Patentee. In consequence of his firm allegiance to his Royal master during the troublous time in which he lived, he was persecuted by the government that came into power; and, leaving his family, he came to Canada, with intent to make his permanent residence here. Among incidents illustrative of his faithfulness and zeal in the interests of his Sovereign, one is told of his having by some means become acquainted with the existence and details of a plot to seize the person of Governor Wentworth; when, feeling the act to be a heinous offense against the Royal authority, as well as a personal indignity to his Majesty's representative, he rode

all one night that he might give His Excellency warning of his danger, and return before light, lest his absence should be discovered, and the cause suspected by those in whom he did not wish to confide. He left Governor Wentworth in a state of high excitement in consequence of the discovery, but apparently undecided what course it was best to pursue. Mr. Austin had assured him that nine o'clock in the morning was the time fixed for the perpetration of the outrage; and, as it was impossible to foresee what evil might result from the excitement and violence of the multitude, he urged immediate flight to a place of safety; but the Governor could not be convinced. After a time, however, he thought better of the plan proposed; and, with his lady, started before light, reaching the residence of Mr. Austin at nine in the morning,—precisely the time fixed upon for taking him into custody, had he remained. From Somersworth, he went directly and privately to the place of embarkation, and took passage for Quebec, which city he reached in safety.

For this and other similar services for which he was held in high esteem by Gov. Wentworth and his friends, Mr. Austin was warmly welcomed to Canada, of which country he had resolved on becoming a citizen; and he met an encouraging and flattering reception from those who were in situations to assist in promoting his interests. Fortunately, by address and the influence of friends, he had saved his property from confiscation, but rather than live under a government he so tho-

roughly despised, he disposed of his beautiful estate at Somersworth, near Lake Winnipissiogee, and prepared himself and family for a new home in the wilds of Canada.

In thus persisting in a step fraught with such fearful responsibility as was that of compelling them to share a life to which they were wholly disinclined, and for which they were totally unfitted by habit or education, some of the inherent qualities of this husband and father's character were exhibited; which consisted in an earnestness of purpose which seemed but another name for obstinate perseverance; an unbending will that would yield nothing of self-supposed and self-appropriated right; and an impatience of contradiction or opposition in the pursuit of a favorite project, which carried all before it. Many of the troubles of his after life were traceable to the developments of these very traits.

On becoming joint proprietor of a township of land, Mr. Austin visited the premises, erected a log house and made a commencement; and, when he came in with his family, was accompanied by a number of men hired for the purpose of clearing land. They proceeded to chop and burn the timber on ninety-five acres, at which the smoke was so thick as for a time to obscure the sun, and great fear was felt lest their house should be burned; but by effort this calamity was prevented, and the land, thus cleared and prepared immediately, that same season yielded one thousand bushels of corn.

It is said that he came to Canada with an abundance

of means ; and, as it had been his ambition to become a large landed proprietor, his wealth was freely used in what he considered was for the good of the country, such as the construction of roads, bridges, mills, and in extensive surveys, &c. ; but, whether his plans were not well matured before being put in practical operation, or whether there was a large infusion of the visionary element in his mental composition ; it is apparent that from some cause, his anticipations were not in any good degree ever realized ; and he had the grief and mortification of seeing his fortune wasting away before the untoward influences with which he was brought into contact. The troubles that have risen out of the relation of Mr. Austin as Patentee, and various other parties as Associates of the Township of Bolton, are still fresh in the memories of many in those parts, much litigation having grown out of them ; and the consequence to the subject of our notice was, that from being a man of opulence and influence, he became reduced in means, and limited in resources ; the world seeming to have passed upon him the sentence of condemnation as an unsuccessful man, which is known as virtual death. This, to a spirit like his, was most unendurable ; but even in his efforts to seek redress for grievances by course of law, he was often unfortunate ; for when feeling himself wronged and outraged by the scheming and complicated villany he sometimes met, his tenacious adherence to what he considered right, and his strict sense of justice, prevented the meeting his adversaries

on their own ground of deceit and subterfuge; in consequence of which unequal contest, he could not but be a frequent sufferer.

That he was arbitrary, is admitted; or perhaps phrenologists will say that the organ of combativeness was largely developed in him; or others may think that a good degree of the antagonistic element was apparent in his character; whichever was the case, through fault or misfortune, the man seemed better fitted to make enemies than friends.

Mr. Austin was bred a quaker; but in consequence of having married out of that society, he was looked upon as an alien, till by continued adhesion to the customs of the sect, he retrieved his standing and was forgiven, continuing to wear the quaker garb and retaining their habits of speech till his death. We are not informed, however, whether he carried these manners into the drawing-rooms and to the tables where he was frequently admitted during his first visits to Quebec, though such was probably the case; as for the time he was an honored and welcome guest, and likely a privileged person. On one of these visits there, a cannon was presented him by the Government, which in a very unquaker like manner he declared his purpose of mounting on a high point of land running out from his estate into the Lake, which small promontory he had named "Point Gibraltar." But for want of a road, and means of conveyance through the woods, the cannon was left in Quebec, and there remains to this day. He

was unfortunate in his family relations, his wife having suffered for years from a partial derangement of her mental faculties, which was probably induced by a (to her distasteful) change from a home of luxury and refinement, to the hardships and self-denials of life in the woods, involving, as it did, the loss of all moral or intellectual culture. She had been delicately and tenderly reared ; and, till her removal to Canada, had been used to occupy a position in society in accordance with her tastes and capabilities ; is spoken of as having been naturally a person of high spirits, of a reserved and uncommunicative nature, but of elevated moral sentiments.

Of her daughters, four in number, one returned to Portsmouth, N. H., where she subsequently married, the other three remaining in Bolton.

Some of their greatest sufferings and inconveniences arose from the want of proper medical advice in the family. One of its members accidentally fell and broke an arm, when the limb was suffered to grow together in such a manner that a large bunch protruded from it a little above the wrist, healing in that way to the great annoyance of the owner.

The following was taken from the Sherbooke Gazette, published in 1859, and was from the pen of a passenger on board the steamer "Mountain Maid : " " We had the pleasure, on our upward trip, of meeting with an old gentleman, whose early recollections of the country, after a residence of nearly seventy years on the west-

erly bank of the Lake, as he recounted them, gave a vivid picture of the difficulties with which the early pioneers of these townships had to struggle. People now-a-days grumble at the hardships of a new country, with roads, mills, schools, churches, medical advice, &c.; yet we can form but a faint idea of what opening up a new country is, or the embarrassments and perplexities the first inhabitants had to encounter. Compare the circumstances of a party settling a few miles back in the woods at the present time, with those of the people first coming into this country, say seventy years ago. We will give a few facts gleaned from the old gentleman referred to. His father, named Austin, emigrated from New England nearly seventy years since, and brought his family, among whom was the narrator, then eleven years of age. They left their home in Somersworth, N. H., when the snow was two and a half feet deep, with three yokes of oxen, one sled being loaded with hay and grain for the teams, the two others with the family, household goods, and provisions. They had to camp out in the woods for nine nights after leaving the settlements in Vermont, before reaching their new home. Where are now the rich and flourishing farms on both sides of Lake Memphremagog, with good society and every convenience that one need ask for, at that time for many miles, not a single settler could be found, not a tree cut, the land not even surveyed, and a "waste, howling wilderness" lay around for several day's journey; continuing so a

number of years after Mr. Austin's first coming to the Magog. No mill or place where flour could be obtained, was nearer than Danville, Vt., distant upward of forty miles."

The corn they raised was at first pounded in a large wooden mortar in common use in the country wherever there were settlements at that period; and this continued till Mr. Austin purchased a small mill, which propelled by water from a brook near his residence, in a measure supplied the deficiency. "Schools!" continued our old friend, "why bless your heart, we did not know in my young days what a school was; we had to teach one another in the family; those who knew the most, teaching the rest: no chance for schools when he had to camp out over night in going to visit our nearest neighbors."

Mr. Austin, senior, died in 1821, ruined in fortune and disappointed in hope. His character, as has been seen was compounded of the elements of discord; and those qualities which are essentially of the "earth, earthy" were developed in his life and conduct. What an impressive comment on the uncertainty and instability of human expectations and calculations. May not the inner lives and private histories of many others be in some degree here delineated? We think so; and that lives are lived out and heads laid low, of which, if the true record was told, such might be seen.

The writer has been assured by one who has had the best opportunities of knowing, that notwithstand-

ing his apparent sternness and coldness toward the world he conceived had used him so harshly, beneath the surface of his character there ran a vein of better feeling ; and that to those in whom he could intimately confide, he expressed the deepest regret and repentance for some of the acts of his life.

He had chosen his resting-place on the prominence himself had named " Point Gibraltar," where he sleeps alone ; the spot having been designated by a simple birch tree, which, however was unfortunately cut down by mistake. Many feel that justice has not been done to his memory, and that he possessed inherent qualities which, under better influences and happier auspices, would have developed into a character of no ordinary virtue ; his prominent faults being but perversions of a better moral sense ; and, that all being considered, it merits other treatment than silence and neglect.

Let the veil of oblivion be drawn over his faults, for " the grave covers all defects."

REUBEN GARLICK.

The Rev. Reuben Garlick, M.D., of English parentage, is said to have come from Milford, Massachusetts, but whether that was his native place, the writer has not learned ; the knowledge we have of him, before his coming to this country, having been principally drawn from the following extract of a letter addressed to the husband of his grand-daughter in West Shefford, in answer to inquiries respecting his earlier life.

“The information we have been able to glean is very meagre indeed, and has been mostly gathered from the memory of the aged, and the traditions of the parishes where he lived and labored. It is indefinite as to dates ; and of his parents nothing yet has been learned except that they were of English birth.

The only item we have respecting his ordination, was taken from a published list of ordinations in the Diocese of Connecticut, where it is recorded that “Reuben Garlick was ordained deacon in Middletown, Connecticut, July 2nd, 1787.”

It is said that he was a graduate of Yale College, New Haven, Connecticut ; but it is probable that he was residing somewhere in Vermont, very likely in Alburgh.

We find traces of him at work in Alburgh among the early settlers, preaching the Gospel, visiting the sick, as both clergyman and physician, and some of the time teaching school. He continued there nine or ten years, and then removed to Jericho, Vt., where, and in the neighboring towns of Underhill and Essex, he both preached, and practiced medicine, some nine or ten years more. In both these places he has left behind him a good name ; and the present generation speak of him as having been a most useful man in his day ; an acceptable minister, a good physician—generous-hearted, freely bestowing upon the poor, but laying up nothing for himself.

From Jericho, he went to Canada, and settled in

Shefford, where he lived six years, preaching, practicing medicine, and teaching school, till his death, which took place there, April 19th, 1805. His mortal remains were deposited in the burying-ground at Waterloo, Shefford, L. C.

Of his children, some married and settled in this country, while others returned to the United States. The only surviving son is now living in the township of Brome, C. E.

The early settlers of those portions of Canada that lie along the line, mostly emigrated from the neighboring States, many of them being descended from the Dutch families, who had first settled on the banks of the Hudson; their preference in favor of the British government having induced them to remove to this country, during or soon after the war which separated those colonies from the parent state; and these with a few families of English, Scotch, and Irish origin, constituted the population at the time Mr. Garlick came to Canada.

As the Episcopal Church was at that time but little known in the northern portions of the United States, the religious sympathies of the people in these parts, so far as developed, were for the most part favorable to Calvinistic doctrines, and the Presbyterian forms of worship and church government.

Mr. Garlick might, therefore, be considered a pioneer of the Church in the Eastern Townships.

